

Concert Review Paper (2-3) pages (no less than 2!!!)

Due: 4/23/10

A few things to think/write about and observe to help you write a good paper (you may find other ways to approach the paper as well):

- First, read a review from the NYTimes or another type of music review in a different (but reputable) publication. Notice how such a review is written. What exactly is the reviewer writing about? How is the review organized? Is there an introductory paragraph? What comes after? Is there background on the artist/performer? Does the review focus on the music? The place? The performer? Use these ideas to help you organize your writing strategy.
- Go see/hear some live music.
- You may go to any kind of music event, but it will be best for you if you see/hear something you've never seen/heard before
- Try to take notes while there so that you don't miss important details about the performance (like song titles, number of songs, memorable quotes from the performers)
- What kind of music are you hearing? Is it a hybrid of different musics? Is it traditional music? Classical? Jazz? Instrumental? Song-based? Try and describe the style if it is not obvious.
- If song based, think about (then write about) how the lyrics and music interact? Can you understand the words? Does that seem important or not?
- Describe the performance – lots of energy? Dull? Sloppy? Precise?
- Try to focus on the structure of the music itself and how it may be different (or the same) as music you might normally listen to.
- How do the musicians interact with the audience? -- describe
- How do the musicians interact with one another? – describe
- How does the music sound in the space? Do the performers sound good? Intimate space? Cavernous? How does this affect the way you receive the performance? Some websites to use for researching/choosing the concert you want to attend.

<http://www.bigapplejazz.com/nycjazzclubs.html> -- a listing of jazz clubs around NYC with club url's -- some clubs are free (or suggested donation, sometimes with a drink minimum) others are very expensive.

<http://www.juilliard.edu/asp/calendar/calendar.asp> -- the Juilliard School's students put on many free concerts over the school year – lots of classical chamber music and jazz.

<http://www.msmnyc.edu/calendar/index.asp> -- manhattan school of music, again its students perform many free concerts

<http://www.villagevoice.com/nycguide/index.php?sid=6> – the village voice, all things popular culture

<http://www.freewilliamsburg.com/> -- an online 'zine devoted to hipster culture centered in Williamsburg, Brooklyn – lots of club listings for pop and rock and other hipness...

<http://www.thekitchen.org/> -- historic “venue” for experimental theater/music/dance

<http://www.bam.org/> -- home of the Brooklyn Philharmonic and things “experimental”.

<http://www.heartheworld.org/> -- the World Music Institute’s website -- listings for many eclectic world music concerts.

<http://www.brooklyntabernacle.org/calendar1.cfm> -- one of the most famous choirs in the nation, certainly in NYC, specifically Brooklyn – not sure of the Christian denomination of this church, but it probably won’t matter once you hear the choir.

<http://www.saintthomaschurch.org/Recitals.html> -- St. Thomas Church – an Episcopal church known for its “church” music – this is a link to their organ recitals (free, I think

Also, check the postings on the bulletin boards throughout the ground floor of Shepard Hall for some of your fellow students’ recitals and concerts.