

Oratorio Report

Please do not be constrained by the questions in this guide to your written report on a professional performance of an oratorio. Do try to **answer the questions** if possible and also make any further observations that occurred to you.

What is the title and who is the composer of the oratorio you heard? Who is the librettist? What is the libretto comprised of? **Where and when was the original performance given?** Who were the **performers** in the one you heard? (conductor, soloists, chorus, orchestra.) **Attach a program.**

Have you ever heard this piece before? Often? If so, how was this one different? If not, would you like to hear it again? Perhaps with some differences? Would you say that this was an authentic period performance? (i.e. if it was a baroque period piece, was the orchestra playing on baroque instruments, or perhaps with baroque bows, and at baroque pitch –A415?) Try to find out.

Did you enjoy the performance as a whole? **Write a little observation about each of the soloists. Try to name and comment on some of the arias.** Did you enjoy the conductor? Do you think the performers enjoyed the conductor? **How was the chorus?** Was the evening's conductor the chorus' regular conductor or was the choir prepared by someone else? **Did the orchestra play well?**

Did you have the impression that the performance as a whole had a shape and unity to it, or did you think each solo performer was working in his/her own individual style and direction? Did the conductor manage to keep a unity and forward movement to the piece, or did you find it started and stopped more that you would have liked?

Was the printed program well prepared? Did it include the **libretto**, and if necessary, was there a full **translation**? Were you able to follow it during the performance?

Describe the physical set-up of the stage. Were the soloists seated across the front of the orchestra or behind it and in front of the choir? Or perhaps to the side of the orchestra? **How many players were in the orchestra? How many in the choir?**

Try to **find a review** of this performance and attach it also to your report. How did the reviewer's opinion differ from yours, if at all? (Don't be afraid to disagree with a critic.) **What did you learn that could benefit your own singing?** Your report must be typewritten, double-spaced, in good English and without spelling or grammatical errors. Include a title page with your name, course name and number, instructor's name, date submitted and titled "Oratorio Report." Put the stapled pages of the report into a folder which also contains the program of the oratorio.