

Recital or Concert Report

This guideline will serve for both your recital of a singer or singers with piano and also for a concert of a soloist with orchestra. If you are commenting on a concert performance of an opera (not fully staged,) you can adapt between this guideline and that for an opera performance.

Please use the following questions as guidelines for your response paper on the recital/concert of your choice. Do not feel limited to these questions but do try to answer these. Any commentary or reaction to the performances, positive or negative will be welcomed. Try to notice everything. And do submit with your report a copy of the program. Be sure to keep for yourself in a file, copies of all recital/concert programs and translations.

Whom did you hear? What organization presented this concert? What does the program look like at first glance? (long, short, daunting, well-paced, spaced, balanced?) Are there notes in the program about the composers? Songs? Translations? Artists? Does the program cover a broad spectrum of styles, periods and languages or is it specialized? Is there a balance of well-known and obscure repertoire? Were you familiar with any of the songs?

Was the recital/concert well-attended? What is the name of the hall? Do you like the hall where the recital/concert took place? How many does it seat? (Find out.) Did you find it an appropriate size for the event, taking into consideration the voice, the choice of music and the popularity of the artist? Was the hall well lit? Did the audience have adequate light to read their programs?

Write about the artist's demeanor, appearance, interplay with the audience, apparent ease or tension. Do you think that this singer and accompanist (or conductor) have worked together often? Did they seem comfortable with one another? Do you think the accompanist (or conductor and orchestra) did a good job? (What is the accompanist's job aside from the obvious?)

Did the artists leave the stage after every group of songs? For how long? What do you think he/she used this time for?

Do you think this singer showed her/himself to good advantage in this recital/concert, i.e., did he/she play to his/her strengths? Is there something you wish he/she hadn't done or had done more of? What was your favourite and least favourite song or group of songs in the program? Why? Be sure to name some of the songs and comment specifically on the artist's performance of them. Where did you feel the climax of the program came? Why do you think so? Was this an appropriate placement for the climax to occur?

Was your initial impression of the printed program borne out, or proved mistaken? How was the conclusion of the recital/concert? Were there encores? What were they? Were they good choices? Would you say the audience really liked this performance, or was it lukewarm? Try to find a review in the newspaper (or a newspaper's website) for this concert *after* you have written your report. Attach it also to this report. Comment on the similarities or differences in your and the reviewer's impressions. Would you go to hear this artist again? Buy his/her recordings?

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 "Recital (or Concert) Report." Put the stapled pages of the report into a folder which also contains the program of the recital.