

## Concert Critique Guidelines

All orchestra students are required to attend **three orchestra** concerts (1st Semester, Honors Orchestra--February, and one 4th quarter). These concerts need to be by a high school, college, professional or community orchestra that are better than we are—see recommended list below. The Honors Orchestra concert will count as your 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter critique--you will need to write a critique whether you attend or play in the concert. Any concert that you are participating in will not count for your critique requirement; however, I will give you extra credit when you turn a critique telling me about the experience (excluding our school orchestra concerts). If you're looking for concert opportunities, check your local newspaper.

Enjoy the concert you're attending--you may write down a couple of thoughts--but concentrate on being an ACTIVE LISTENER throughout the whole concert.

### **Please turn in 2 things:**

1. program or ticket stub
2. 1-2 page typed reaction to the concert (It is best to do this within 48 hours so you don't forget. Handwritten papers will not be accepted.) Critiques **will not** be accepted after one week following the concert.

### **When writing your critique/review, please include the following:**

- Title of concert, date, place and name of performing groups
- Discuss your **AESTHETIC** reaction to the concert (aesthetic = intellectual and emotional responses)
- What did you like/dislike about the concert and why
  - critique the music (was it all the same style?), the way it was performed, the conductor, etc.
  - talk about one piece in detail (what was the piece about and how did the phrasing, tone, articulation, instrumentation convey the meaning of the piece.)
- Any other observations that you make

### **Summary paragraph--**

- What did you learn from the performance and how can you apply that to your own playing?** (If this paragraph is missing, you will not receive full credit.)

### **Examples of what not to say!!**

Anything too vague or general

"I like that song because I know it."

"It inspired me." (be more specific)

**"They need to practice more."** (WHY?)

**"THE DYNAMICS WERE GOOD."** (HOW?)

*"They sounded good." (You can do better than that!)*

**"The orchestra had nice harmonies."** (huh?)

"The rhythms were interesting." (HOW?)

*"Their outfits did not match at all. And this women behind me kept on unwrapping cough drops and this one girl at the back of the violin section was moving so much that it distracted everyone from her big hair."*

You may only write one sentence containing a non-musical criticism. Full credit will not be given if you focus on peripheral, non-musical matters.

If any of the above items are left out, you will not receive full credit. You can receive a total of 25 points depending on the quality of the critique.

## **\*\*Extra Credit\*\***

You may earn extra credit by attending and writing a concert critique on any musical performance. These may include musicals, other orchestra concerts, choir, band concerts and even rock concerts. You must write a critique using the above guidelines to receive credit. To make sure that you will receive credit for attending a particular concert, please check with Mrs. Caballero first. These are each worth 10 pts. each and you are limited to two extra credit critiques per quarter.

These extra credit critiques are above and beyond your critique requirements.

### **Normal credit**

Honors Orchestra Concert (3rd Quarter)  
H.S. orchestra concert  
professional orchestra concert  
recitals with stringed instruments  
college orchestra concert  
youth orchestra concert

### **Extra Credit**

1 band or choir concert  
Musical  
Rock concert  
any concert above and  
beyond the required three

Looking for some concert ideas? Check out the following High Schools, Colleges and Professional Orchestras:

#### *Recommended High School Orchestras:*

New Trier High School ([www.newtrier.k12.il.us/arts/orchestras/default.htm](http://www.newtrier.k12.il.us/arts/orchestras/default.htm))  
Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra ([www.cyso.org](http://www.cyso.org))  
Schaumburg Youth Orchestra  
Elgin Youth Orchestra ([www.eyso.org/index.htm](http://www.eyso.org/index.htm))

#### *Recommended College Orchestras:*

Wheaton College ([www.wheaton.edu/](http://www.wheaton.edu/))  
Northwestern University ([www.northwestern.edu/music/](http://www.northwestern.edu/music/))  
Chicago Civic Orchestra (training orchestra for the Chicago Symphony—all concerts are free!)  
([www.cso.org/main.taf?p=2,4](http://www.cso.org/main.taf?p=2,4))

#### *Recommended Professional Orchestras:*

Chicago Symphony Orchestra ([www.cso.org](http://www.cso.org))  
Elgin Symphony Orchestra ([www.elginsymphony.org](http://www.elginsymphony.org))  
Ars Viva Orchestra ([www.arsviva.org/concerts/index.html](http://www.arsviva.org/concerts/index.html))