

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 presented by a high school, college, professional or community orchestra that are better than we are—see recommended list on the back. The Honors Orchestra concert (in February) will count as your 3rd quarter critique--you will need to write a critique whether you attend or perform 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
 - Compare and contrast the musical styles being performed
 - comment on:
 - the quality of the performance
 - how the conductor conducted
 - did anything stand out visually from the orchestra's performance?
 - Left hand technique
 - Bow hand
 - Bow techniques
 - Bow usage & placement
 - each piece:
 - What was the piece about and how did the phrasing, tone, articulation, instrumentation convey the meaning of the piece.)
 - Did the piece conjure any images or emotions?

Summary paragraph (at the end of the critique):

- 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.)

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—these are just a few of the great orchestras in this area:

Recommended High School Orchestras:

New Trier High School (www.newtrier.k12.il.us/arts/orchestras/default.htm)
Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra (www.cyso.org)
Schaumburg Youth Orchestra (website is not current)
Elgin Youth Orchestra (www.cyso.org/index.htm)
Midwest Young Artists (www.mya.org)

Recommended College Orchestras:

Wheaton College (www.wheaton.edu)
Northwestern University (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)

Recommended Professional Orchestras:

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

2011-12 Critique Deadlines:

1st semester

✓ One critique due by December 16

3rd quarter

✓ Honors Orchestra critique due by February 17

4th quarter

✓ Final critique due by May 18

Remember, all critiques are due within ONE week of the concert that you attend.