Concert Review Guidelines

A review combines reporting with personal opinion. Write your review as if your audience is the general reading public and you are a person who attends concerts for pleasure. As you write about the concert, deal with aspects of the concert that you consider most important or striking. Word choice, spelling, grammar, and punctuation are important. Write your review as an essay, not in question and answer format. Be honest and show that you seriously engaged in the music and the performance.

Opening Paragraph: Briefly describe the event using these questions:

WHO—who was performing?
WHAT—What was the event? What was the title of the concert?
WHERE—Where was the event held?
WHEN—date, time?
WHY—What was the purpose?
HOW—Types of concert and music (concert band, jazz band, choir)

Body: The bulk of the review might address some of these questions. Remember to use essay form. Questions about the performance:

What about the experience was new or different for you?
What impressed you about this live music experience and why?
Which selection intrigued you the most? Explain what about the music intrigued you.
If the piece is a new work, what is your opinion about the writing of the composition?
What work did you find most enjoyable? Why?
If there was a selection you did not enjoy, why didn’t you enjoy it?
What did the audience respond to the most? Least?

Questions about the performers:

What was your opinion about the performers’ presentation of the music?
How good are they as musicians?
How well did they work together?

Be sure to concentrate on musical matters, although brief discussions of other aspects may be included.

Conclusion: Your conclusion should summarize your overall impression of the concert. Share your reactions and opinions. What did you like, what did you dislike and why? Finally, give the performers a pat on the back or suggestions for improvement, and give your readers good reasons for going (or not going) to the next such concert.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>A</th>
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<th>U</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FORMAT-LENGTH, FONT &amp; SPACING</td>
<td>Review is 1 complete page or more. Double Spaced and uses 12 pt appropriate font.</td>
<td>Review is almost 1 complete page. Double Spaced and uses 12 pt appropriate font.</td>
<td>Review is 3/4 page. Double Spaced and uses 12 pt appropriate font.</td>
<td>Review is 3/4 page. More than Double Spaced and/or uses large than 12 pt appropriate font.</td>
<td>Review is 1/2 page or less. There are extra spaces and/or inappropriate font.</td>
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<tr>
<td>FORMAT-Title &amp; byline</td>
<td>The correct format for a Title and byline are used. Title is enticing and/or interesting.</td>
<td>There is a title and byline on the paper.</td>
<td>There is no title or byline on the paper.</td>
<td>Introduction paragraph is missing. Name of Musicians/ensembles/conductors are missing. Overall intro to concert setting is limited.</td>
<td>Introduction paragraph is missing title, venue, and date of the concert. Name of Musicians/ensembles/conductors are missing. Overall intro to concert setting is missing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>Introduction paragraph includes title, venue, and date of the concert. Name of Musicians/ensembles/conductors are included. Overall intro to concert setting is included.</td>
<td>Introduction paragraph includes two of the following: title, venue, and date of the concert. Name of Musicians/ensembles/conductors may be included. Overall intro to concert setting is somewhat included.</td>
<td>Introduction paragraph includes one of the following: title, venue, and date of the concert. Name of Musicians/ensembles/conductors are missing. Overall intro to concert setting is limited.</td>
<td>Evaluation of concert uses facts or reactions to the pieces as support. Audience response is not mentioned and the overall judgment of the concert is listed.</td>
<td>Conclusion is missing or just one sentence.</td>
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<tr>
<td>DESCRIPTION</td>
<td>Brief discussions of each piece is included. Title of each piece and composer is listed (OR program is attached). Discussion of reaction to each piece is included.</td>
<td>Brief discussions of some pieces are included. Title of some pieces and composers are listed (OR program is attached). Discussion of reaction to some pieces is included.</td>
<td>Limited discussions of few pieces are included. Title of few pieces and composers are listed (OR program is attached).</td>
<td>Pieces are listed and not described. Discussion of reaction to pieces are missing.</td>
<td>Conclusion is missing or just one sentence.</td>
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<td>EVALUATION</td>
<td>Evaluation of concert is reflective and uses facts or reactions to the pieces as support. Audience response is mentioned and the overall judgment of the concert is listed and discussed.</td>
<td>Evaluation of concert uses facts or reactions to the pieces as support. Audience response is mentioned and the overall judgment of the concert is listed.</td>
<td>Evaluation of concert is limited. Audience response is not mentioned and the overall judgment of the concert is listed.</td>
<td>Evaluation of missing. Audience response is not mentioned and the overall judgment of the concert is listed.</td>
<td>Conclusion is missing or just one sentence.</td>
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<td>CONCLUSION</td>
<td>The impression of the concert is summarized in more than three sentences. Mention of upcoming attractions may be present. The conclusion leaves the reader with a feeling of completion.</td>
<td>The impression of the concert is summarized in less than three sentences. Mention of upcoming attractions may be present.</td>
<td>The impression of the concert is summarized in less than three sentences. The conclusion leaves the reader with a feeling of wanting more information.</td>
<td>Conclusion is missing or just one sentence.</td>
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