

MUSIC 100 CONCERT REPORTS: Everything you need to know

How do I find concerts?

They're all around you! Watch the bulletin boards around the OCC Music Department for upcoming performances on campus. Check Facebook, dailypilot.com, latimes.com, ocregister.com, and SparkOC.com, for starters. High schools and churches are also excellent places to find free or low-cost concerts to attend. Since most musical ensembles operate on a school-year season, you'll find more performances from October-December and March-May than in September or right after the holidays (everyone needs time to rehearse first!).

What kind of performance counts for a concert report?

Because this is a course about classical music, your primary concert report must be about a classical concert—not Broadway, jazz, pop, show-choir, etc. It can be a small-scale or large-scale performance; solo recitals, choral or orchestral concerts, or chamber-music performances all qualify! I do encourage you to support OCC's musical offerings, too, so you may use ANY concert given by the OCC Music Department as one of your extra-credit reports, even if it's not classical in nature. (If you're not sure quite WHAT a concert is, bring me the event listing and we'll figure it out!)

What am I supposed to wear to a concert?

If you're going someplace upscale like the OC Performing Arts Center or Disney Concert Hall, bring out your finery. Otherwise, just be clean and neat and respectable-looking—avoid jeans and T-shirts if possible. And turn off your cell phone and **DO NOT TALK DURING THE MUSIC!!!**

What should I write in my concert report? How long should it be?

Your report should be 1-2 pages long (assuming respectable font sizes/spacing/margins), and should be a personal account of your experience at the performance. **Be sure you tell me what music you heard, who performed it, and where and when the concert took place!** I'm not looking for analysis of the music or a critique of the performers; I'd like to know what was interesting to you, what you learned, what you found strange or confusing, what new thoughts or ideas the music inspired. If you're inspired to do a little further reading on what you heard, include that, too! **Do not copy the program notes. Do not plagiarize from Wikipedia.**

How much are the extra-credit reports worth?

About 1/4 of a test each—i.e., enough that it's well worth your while to do them! Plenty of students in the past have bumped themselves up a full letter grade by virtue of turning in extra concert reports. Remember, ONE concert report is required. You may do up to TWO for extra credit.

When are my reports due?

On the day of the final exam. No late reports accepted.

Any other questions? Let me know!