Music 321

Live Concert Review.

Summary:  find and attend a live Jazz performance outside of class, and write a summary, relating your experience to the music and history that we have covered in class.

**Distribution/General Education Assignment Instructions:**

**Jazz Concert Review - 600 word minimum**

**Assigment: Attend a live jazz concert and write a review, using concepts you have learned from the course.**

Writing style: use your best professional/collegiate style, proper grammar and punctuation.

Grading: These four aspects of the review will be graded (as stated in the rubric above):

1. analysis of historical content,

2. identification and evaluation of periods of improvisation during live performance,

3. instrumentation and rationale, and

4. stylistic component identification/description.

If a live concert is not available in your geographic area, students may attend, **virtually** and for a small fee, a jazz set at Smalls Jazz Club, located at 183 W. 10th St, New York City, and write a review about the music. Check the calendar, as there is a diversity of groups nightly. Only a current live event will be accepted as a subject, not a past recording. [https://www.smallslive.com/ (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.](https://www.smallslive.com/) Jazz at Lincoln Center also frequently webcasts free concerts on Livestream [http://livestream.com/jazz (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.](http://livestream.com/jazz)

Live performances must be current (i.e. not a concert attended before this course started), preferably during the last two to three weeks of the term.  Try to model your essay on a review we have examined in class from a primary source. They must be organized and take place at an established venue such as a Jazz club, outdoor festival, or concert theater (i.e. not a street performer).

[https://southfloridajazzlist.com/ (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.](https://southfloridajazzlist.com/) is a great resource for live Jazz performances in South Florida.

The following points will help you get ideas as to what to write about, keeping in mind the four grading areas outlined above:

* + 1. Setting - when? Where? describe venue, acoustics (use learned/appropriate descriptive vocabulary i.e. lots of echo="wet"; not much echo="dry") Band - instrumentation? vocalist? electronic? acoustic? who was the leader?
    2. Repertory - describe the songs they play, give titles if possible. Talk about tempo, volume, contrasts. If the program consists of many songs, compare and contrast a few which are dissimilar. If everything they play is similar, how so? The melody? the rhythm? the texture?
    3. Style - In what style or styles do they play? Traditional ("Straight ahead”)? Fusion of styles? Rock influenced? Dixieland (New Orleans)? Why did you conclude that? Musical characteristics: melody, harmony, rhythm. Did you know any of the songs? Do they seem drawn from any particular period in history (as related to our class study of styles)?
    4. Song forms, presentation: Do they use lots of arrangements, or do they just seem to play the melody, then improvise, then play the melody again? Use of introductions to the tunes? **Try to talk about the form of the tunes.**
    5. Improvisation/Interaction - do they improvise a lot? Who improvises most? Do they seem to be communicating in any way? Who do you like the most? Why?
    6. Sound phenomenon opinion - what's your impression of the overall sound? organized? pleasing to the ear? difficult to listen to? What's the timbre (sound quality of each instrument and the overall combination)?