

# FUNDAMENTALS OF MUSIC - MUSIC 101

## CONCERT REPORT

### EXTRA CREDIT - 25 PTS

The purpose of the concert reports is to familiarize you with the terms used to describe the four characteristics of a tone (pitch, intensity, duration and timbre) and to increase your ability to use those terms to communicate what you hear in the music to which you listen.

The concert report should be about a concert of what is commonly called "classical" music. The reason for this is two-fold: one, classical music will provide you with more and clearer opportunities to use the terms; two, doing the report on a classical music concert will give you an opportunity to expose yourself to music to which you would not normally listen. (Which is a good thing!) (If you want to go to a concert of music other than classical music, you should see me first for approval.) The Music Department gives a series of free concerts each semester on Thursdays at 11:30 am and there are student workshops on Tuesdays at 11:30 am. The Valley College Wind Ensemble gives free concerts each semester, and the Philharmonic Choir, Valley College Guitar Ensemble and Valley Symphony Orchestra give concerts each semester for a very reasonable price. Many other organizations offer free concerts. Check the bulletin boards around the Music Building or check the music events calendar in the L. A. Times. Also, the Los Angeles Music Center offers student rush tickets for symphony concerts at very reasonable prices.

To begin the concert report, you should give the basic information about the concert: time, place, who performed and what was performed. A concert program or ticket stub **must** be included with the concert report. After giving the basic information about the concert, I would like you to describe three specific music events in one or more of the pieces performed using the terms that describe the four characteristics of a tone. The events you describe should be of a significant nature, ones that stand out as you listen to the music. You should also discuss where the events occurred in the music and how you felt about them. You must use all four terms in your report, but you don't have to use each term for all three musical events that you describe. (e.g., one event you could describe in terms of pitch and duration, another you could describe in terms of intensity, timbre and duration, and another in terms of duration and intensity.) The report should be about four or five paragraphs long: one paragraph for the basic information, and one paragraph for each musical event, with the possibility of a fifth paragraph summing up your concert-going experience.

The concert reports will be graded subjectively based on the following factors: your correct usage of the four terms, the completeness with which you describe the musical events you have selected, your style, grammar, etc.

The concert reports are due on the last class meeting before the final. No late concert reports will be accepted!

## **QUARTET FOR THE END OF TIME - MESSIAN**

### Event 1

At one point in the piece, the clarinet holds a single pitch for a very long duration. While this note is being held out, it very slowly increases in intensity. The timbre also changes. It goes from being a very soft, mellow tone to a much harsher timbre. After that note ends there are some higher pitches of very short duration.

### Event 2

At another point in the piece, the clarinet plays several notes of medium-short duration at higher and higher pitch level and then plays lower and lower pitch level. This same melodic figure is then repeated at a much softer intensity level.

## **DER FREISCHUTZ - WEBER**

### Event 1

At the beginning of the piece, the entire orchestra plays one single pitch for a long duration and then goes up to a higher pitch for a long duration. During this time, the intensity level gradually increases from very soft to very, very loud. After its gets very loud, the intensity level drops suddenly to very soft as the strings tremolo quietly. This event is repeated at a different pitch level, but with the same intensity pattern of going gradually from very soft to very, very loud and then suddenly soft again.

### Event 2

After the above event happens twice, the horns come in playing a very beautiful melody at a medium loud intensity level. The contrast between the timbre of the entire orchestra and the timbre of the horns is quite dramatic. The orchestra's tone is very intense and foreboding, whereas the horns sound very mellow and soothing.

## **“WHATEVER” - EN VOGUE**

### Event 1

At the beginning of the song, there is a series of three pitches each much higher than the other. The first pitch is played on the bass, the second is played on the sax, and the third sounds like a keyboard sound. It has a hard and harsh timbre. The motif continues throughout the song.

### Event 2

A little later in the song, there is a point where each of the three singers sing a pitch with a “bell-like” timbre (Bong! Bong! Bong!). Each pitch successively lower than the other and with successively longer durations. This produces a pyramid effect.