

**Concert Report Assignment**  
**MUS 1210, Fall 2015**  
**Prof. Blake**

The concert report assignment is a semester-long project that is worth 40% (400 points) of your final grade. It is split into three parts: 1) **blog post** (50 points), 2) **oral presentation** (150 points), and 3) **final essay** (200 points). Each of these is described below:

**Blog post requirements for the Open Lab portion of the Concert Report**

In your groups, you must complete three tasks to satisfy this portion of the assignment:

1. Find a concert to attend and agree on the date as a group. One person from the group should list the concert venue, time, date, and location as a blog entry to <https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/musicalstyles/nyc-concerts/>
2. Each individual student must then post a “reply” to this entry with some kind of media link (described below)
3. Each individual student should include in the “reply” a 1 paragraph preview of the concert.

**Acceptable media links:**

- **Print media:** newspapers and magazines (the online version)
- **Blogs:** Online jazz-related forums and databases
- **Social Media:** 100 word minimum. (Twitter or Instagram not accepted)
- **Artist Websites:** must concern solely the artist or group (not Wikipedia)
- **Audio Link:** must have good to professional A/V quality and be legally obtained

**Some thoughts on groupwork:**

- **Think visually:** Use Powerpoint, devise graphics, include photos
- **Think sonically:** Play examples of artists to your classmates, sell them on an idea for a possible concert to attend
- **Think critically:** Respect differences in musical taste and opinions. Share information freely, and allow music presented by others to challenge your tastes and expectations.

## II. Oral Presentations (150 points):

Each group will be assigned a presentation date beginning at the 5<sup>th</sup> week of class. Although you will be given some time to work collaboratively to plan your work, every individual must give their own presentation.

Presentations should be no longer than 5 minutes in length and should cover the following points:

- **25 points: Intro (1 minute):** Identify the style or particular tradition music relates to. Give a brief history of this style (i.e. string quartet, opera, symphony, etc.), and say a few words about the performer (very brief).
- **50 points: Body (2 minutes):** Should answer 2 questions: 1) What is a brief history behind the work and the composer? 2) For what purpose was it written? And 3) Is there any dramatic intent behind the work? (storyline, emotion, how did circumstances/life influence the work's creation if at all?)
- **75 points: Music sample/analysis (2 minutes):** You should play one (1) 30 second music clip and lead a discussion on what we heard. Make sure to choose an example that shows clearly something about the work's a) form, b) melody, c) unique sound, d) program/story, or any other unique aspect. Do not simply play the first 30 seconds of the work. You must have something specific to say about the example. See me if you need help with this!

### III. Final Essay (200 points):

The final essay is a summary review of your concert experience. Each student must turn in an original paper; this paper is not a group project (although of course you may discuss your work with your group). The paper should focus on a single work (or movement from a longer work) you heard at the concert you attended. I am looking for an in-depth description of the music using vocabulary we learned in class.

3-5 pages, double spaced, following this criteria:

1. 50 points - Basic information of the concert (where, when, who, instrumentation), and say a bit about the performer you heard, their history, training, etc. 1 paragraph.
2. 100 points - Brief bio of the composer of the work. What genre of music is this (concerto, sonata, string quartet, opera, etc.) and say something about when/where composer lived (i.e. did they have a patron? How was the work received? etc.) **You must have at least 2 references. Wikipedia is not accepted.**
3. 100 points - Description of the work or movement. Give a description of the piece using vocabulary and concepts from class. Again, you should research the work and find a recording to help you. But always cite any ideas that are not your own (see my description of academic honesty in the course syllabus). The analysis can include aspects of melody and form (folk music? Strophic? Sonata form? Etc.), style (text painting, affect, other narrative elements), harmony, or any other aspect.
4. 50 points - Your reaction to the performance. How did you feel about the performance, what stood out for you? Based on your research, did the performer capture the essence of the work?