

Questions to Ask Myself When Attending a Concert

1) Before going to the music concert:

- What are my expectations for this concert?
- What do I know about this artist, type of music and the era that the music comes from?
- If the music will be unfamiliar to me, what might I read to learn about it before I go? What concert reviews, informal word of mouth, and publicity items give me more information?

2) Entering the Concert Venue:

- How do the audience members conduct themselves and show appreciation at this rock, classical, hip-hop, folk music, etc concert? Will I be free to express myself and my appreciation with my speaking voice?

3) At the Concert:

- Does this piece of music tell a story? If there is a story, is it communicated with words (lyrics)?
- If the piece uses instruments only, do the instruments communicate a story or message? How does that happen?
- What is the mood of the piece? Is it celebratory, sentimental, passionate, etc.?
- Which instruments do I see? What are the voice types that I hear?
- Does the music move and does it move quickly, slowly, etc?
- Is there a recognizable theme or melody? How often is that theme or melody heard?
- When the theme or melody appears, does it change? If so, how does it change?
- Do I hear many melodies at once? Do they sound as if they move flowingly and horizontal of do they move vertically (up and down)?
- Is there anything about the music/lyrics that stand out for me?
- Does the music “touch me” or “speak to me” in a particular way? What emotions does it create in me?
- Do I want to explore other performances by this composer or artist?
- Does the music remind me of other music I have heard?
- What country or culture is represented by this music?

4) Reading the Concert Review:

- What parts of the concert did the reviewer mention or highlight?
- Do I agree with the reviewer’s opinion? Why or why not?
- What else did I learn about the music as a result of reading the review?
- What was the best think about this concert?