

SAMPLE REPORT:

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(STUDENT ID #) ID#12345678
(CLASS) Music Appreciation
(REPORT NUMBER) Report #?

Part I – program attached (Attach to back of report)

OR

Part I -

Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra (Who)

Raymond Harvey, Conductor

Saturday, March 42, 2014 (When)

William Saroyan Theatre (Where)

Program: (What)

Overture to “The Marriage of Figaro” ----- W.A. Mozart

Piano Concerto No. 1 ----- P.I. Tchaikovsky

Van Cliburn, pianist

intermission

Symphony No. 4, E minor ----- J. Brahms

Part II –

The overture used a small orchestra in keeping with the size of the orchestra in Mozart's time. It was very fast in tempo and relatively light in texture. There seemed to be 2 main themes. The overture was probably in Sonata-Allegro form although I could not discern the form for certain.

The piano concerto, of course, featured the solo piano throughout. The soloist was outstanding. He handled the virtuoso requirements easily. There was a cadenza in the first and third movement and many more times that the piano played by itself for a short period. This piece had several lovely "romantic" themes. It was clearly the product of a time when drama and emotion were important elements in music.

After intermission, Brahms' Symphony No. 4 was performed. This is another example of the Romantic era. While Brahms was a traditionalist – using the procedures and forms of the Classic era, his music is still very "romantic".

The concerto and symphony used the standard orchestra of the 19th century, large string section, pairs of woodwinds, 2 trumpets, 4 horns and 3 trombones. The percussion was still limited to timpani.

Part III –

The overture was fast and furious and yet very clear and precise. The music has a happy feel to it, maybe because it is the overture to a "comic" opera. There were several moments when the

violins and the high woodwinds had to play some very fast passages. It was a happy, up-beat way to start the concert.

I was fascinated by the interplay between the pianist and the orchestra. The orchestra was not merely accompanying, but was an equal partner. The piano can produce so many different sounds – extremely low pitches, very high pitches, fast scales, Massive chords, etc. It was fascinating to watch the soloist's hands. How a person can do so much with just 10 fingers I don't know. The composer certainly demanded a great deal of skill on the part of the soloist.

The Brahms symphony seemed to be more conservative. Not so overtly dramatic and emotional as the concerto. There were several important French Horn solos. I liked the clarity and restraint that were apparent in the symphony. The concerto seemed to be much looser and not so tightly organized.

This concert was a new experience for me. I now know what a piano concerto sounds (and looks) like. The precision of the bow movements in the strings was quite impressive.