

JAZZ CONCERT REPORT GUIDELINES

The purpose of this assignment is to give you the opportunity to listen to, observe and study a live performance of jazz music. If you have any question as to whether or not the concert you have picked qualifies as a jazz concert, contact your instructor prior to writing your report.

Your concert report should be 1½-2 pages in length, double spaced, using Times Roman 12-point font. The report should deal primarily with your observations about the nature of the music, and only secondarily with your observations of the quality of its performance.

A copy of the concert program, a ticket stub, or other proof of attendance should be attached to your report. (You could have the band leader sign a sheet of paper if you have nothing else.) If you submit your report electronically, use .doc or .pdf formats only. You may either scan the proof of attendance and submit it with your report, give it to the instructor, or put it in his box.

Include a header with: Your name, "MUSIC 48 Concert Report," instructor(s), and the date the report was submitted.

Include the following basic information in the body of the report:

- Time, location, and date of the performance
- Name of the leader, or the group name
- Instrumentation (with individual performer's names, if possible)
- The primary style of the music (swing, blues, bebop, latin, samba, etc.)
- An account of your impressions of the music.

For 3 or 4 songs that you hear, describe the following:

- The title of the song (plus composer or arranger, if known)
- The style of the song (swing, samba, bop, ballad, etc.; alternated between [style] and [style]; or whatever you can determine or describe)
- Tempo (fast, medium, slow, varied from section to section, etc.)
- Presentation (examples: standard "head-solos-head," began with a bass solo; pianist did a rubato introduction... describe whatever you observed)
- The order of the solos performed on the tune
- *Optional:* If you can determine it, indicate the form of the tune (i.e. AABA; ABAC; 12-bar blues; there was a bridge or a tag; seemed like a non-standard form; etc.)

Examples of some ideas that you might comment on (these are not requirements but are provided as possible starting points for the descriptive parts of your report):

Were the solos well developed? Did you sense that the soloists were "pushing the envelope" or "playing it safe"? Did the ensemble seem well rehearsed or not quite together? Did it seem as if the musicians have played together as a group before, or did it have more of a loose "jam session" feel? Did the performers listen well to each other? Did the rhythm section complement one another and the soloists, or did they sometimes seem to be at odds with each other? Was the music innovative, or more imitative of established styles? Was there a noticeable sense of spontaneous creativity and innovation?

These are just a few suggestions to get you started. Feel free to add your own ideas!