

Expanding Your Horizons (Concert Review)

When attending a concert to “expand your horizons”, pay attention as if you were writing a report on the experience, utilizing the music concepts and terminology you know. Whatever concert or musical event you choose to attend, remember that you are participating in, and observing a cultural event that happens to focus on music—the culture is nearly as important as the music. Rather than focus solely on the music presented (the sound), examine all music from a three-point perspective: 1) *as sound*, 2) *as ceremony*, 3) *as culture*. (See below)



Consider the following...

Music as sound

- What music is presented? (styles, selections of works or songs, etc.)
- How do the musical selections performed compare to examples discussed with your teacher and in your books? Make specific comparisons, including titles of works, composers, and relevant characteristics.
- Does the music encourage certain behavior?

Music as ceremony

- Why do you think the performers have chosen the songs performed?
- Why do you think the organizers have chosen these performers, this music, this venue?
- Does this music, its location, or the audience (or any combination) project a particular attitude or perspective?

Music as culture

- How do people act at this event?
- Who interacts with whom and when? (performers among themselves, performers with audience, audience among each other, etc.)
- What role does the music play in encouraging (or discouraging) interaction? (dancing, sitting, clapping, etc.)
- Does there appear to be any prescribed or expected behaviours (rules)?
- What role does the locale play in determining musical behaviour?
- Are there important props for this event? (printed material, decorations, etc.) How do people respond to them?
- How are people dressed? Does their dress match other features of the event?