

## GUIDELINES FOR THE MUSIC REVIEW

Every student at W.L.M.S. is required to attend a live music event each semester and write a review on it. A live music event is one in which an individual or group performs for a live audience- **no video or internet performances please**. This includes symphony and choral concerts, recitals, musical theatre, dance performances, special church and community presentations, jazz and popular music concerts. Students are encouraged to attend a different type of performance each semester if possible. Music events in which the student is a performer or stagehand will not count for this assignment.

From time to time, students will be notified of upcoming events and free musical performances in the area, **but it is up to the students and their parents to arrange for the event of their choice**. A good source for upcoming events is the internet and the Los Angeles Times.

**Each review should be typed**. Many of the teachers at W.L.M.S. suggest Times NewRoman size 14 as a good font to use for reports. **The review should be at least a page in length**, include paragraphs with topic sentences, and have a separate title page listing the student's name, class, date, and performance date and title. Some students may want to exercise their creativity by composing a short headline capturing the essence of his or her review (most newspaper headlines are between three to seven words).

The first paragraph of the review should briefly cover essential information, such as:

- **WHO:** the name of the performer or group
- **WHAT:** the name or title of the performance and/or the type of performance (recital, music theatre, etc.)
- **WHEN:** the date of performance
- **WHERE:** the location of the performance
- **WHY or HOW:** if applicable, the reason for the performance (a benefit, tribute, or seasonal program?)

The ensuing paragraphs should discuss and evaluate the musical elements of the program. Above all, each student is encouraged to write about his or her impressions and observations rather than deliver a long laundry list of details (For example, focusing on one or more of these questions might make the review more interesting: What did you like about it? What was the highlight or highlights? Did the music remind you of anything you've heard before? How did it make you feel? How would you describe the tone of a singer's voice or a musician's instrument? What was the audience reaction like?). A **brief** summary of the plot (if musical theatre, for example) might be worth mentioning, but **try to avoid a literal retelling of the performance**. Remember that the primary purpose of this project and the main body of this assignment is to review, using musical vocabulary and well thought out supporting musical examples, not to report.

In the final paragraph, the student should summarize his or her thoughts and offer a final opinion. Some questions worth considering: Would you recommend this event to someone? Why or why not? How it is relevant to you or the times we live in, or how does it contribute to the culture of our society?

Extra points are awarded for an interesting writing style, originality, and the generous use of active verbs.

Examples of music reviews can be found in local newspapers or available upon request. Please consult the Music Review Evaluation Sheet for specific grading criteria and remember to **ATTACH IT TO THE END OF THE REVIEW**.

### DUE DATES:

Fall Semester: **December 3th, 2010**. No music review will be accepted after January 21, 2011!

Spring Semester: **May 6th, 2011**. No music review will be accepted after May 27th, 2011!

## **YOUR MUSIC REVIEW: PLANNING AHEAD**

Just a reminder that attending a musical event requires advanced planning and thought.

There are a number of variables such as expense, transportation, family schedules, and availability of tickets to be considered. With the hectic pace of most families these days it might be wise to schedule an event early in the semester to avoid the stress of last minute planning. A good source for upcoming events is the internet and the Los Angeles Times.

Here are a few web sites to get you going:

Los Angeles Times – The Guide <http://theguide.latimes.com/performing-arts>

Civic Light Opera –South Bay Cities <http://www.civiclighthouse.com>

Gibson Amphitheatre at Universal <http://www.hob.com/venues/concerts/gibson>

The Greek Theatre <http://www.greektheatrela.com>

Hamilton High Performing Arts <http://www.hamiltonmusic.org>

Hollywood Bowl <http://www.hollywoodbowl.com>

Los Angeles Music Center <http://www.musiccenter.org/calendar>

Los Angeles Philharmonic [http:// wdch.laphil.com](http://wdch.laphil.com)

Los Angeles Master Chorale <http://www.lamc.org>

Los Angeles Opera <http://www.losangelesopera.org>

The Ahmanson, Kirk Douglas Theatre, and Mark Taper Forum  
<http://www.CenterTheatreGroup.org>

Los Angeles Stage Alliance <http://www.theatrela.org>

The Pantages <http://www.broadwayla.org>

Ticketmaster - <http://www.ticketmaster.com>

Westchester Lutheran Church <http://www.wlcs.org>

Westchester Playhouse <http://kentwoodplayers.org>