

## Concert Review Rationale

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Concert reviews are required of each student enrolled in TPA music classes.

1. **More than one review** is required because students then have a basis for comparison. The two concerts reviewed hopefully will differ from one another and yet also present some patterns.
2. The assignment is designed to help students hear **expert performances** of music. While they also are required to perform music themselves, hearing college-age or older performers can raise their sights to a higher level of performance that simply performing themselves cannot do.
3. **Live** performance is required, because students then have the experience of being with expert musicians, in the same room, during a live performance during which things can go wrong. Students often are surprised by the amount of conviction and emotion expressed by the performers when the students are in the same room hearing a live performance.
4. **Classical** (or art) music is required because that is the focus of the course. While principles learned while studying art music can be applied to other genres, such as pop or rock, the reverse may not necessarily be true. At TPA, we ask our students to engage with the “great ideas” of centuries gone by. Literature, including music that has stood the test of time is the best means to accomplish this.
5. Concerts that do not meet the **three criteria** as live, classical, college-age performers and older may be enjoyable and even elevating. However, they do not correlate and are mostly irrelevant to the curricular goals of our music classes and are not suitable for review.
6. A **wide range of concerts suitable for review is available** and posted early in the semester. The number of concerts listed typically number between 70 and 100. Many, although not all, of these concerts are available for free admission. Often, recitals and concerts occur at the ASU campus, which also is available through public transportation.
7. Students typically have **four or five months** to meet the concert review requirement.
8. The process of **attending live performance** of classical music is unusual in our current, technology-driven culture. People often would rather sit at home and watch or listen to recorded performances. As counter-cultural as it is, this requirement is a profound piece of our education at TPA.
9. All of the **fine arts** programs, with the exception of poetry, **require observation of public expressions**: the art classes require review of art museums, drama requires review of a play, and, as shown above, music classes require reviews of concerts.