

French Music Concert Review: Western Classical Music Performance Report

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Abstract

This paper is a personal report on a musical concert attended at the *Westerbeck Recital Hall of the Center for the Arts located at Pasadena City College*. The concert was on western art music and the report is a discussion of the performance as well as the experience. This paper also acknowledges the evolution of the Baroque movement of music. The report concludes by giving personal views and opinions regarding the concert.

Music with a French Flair concert by Debussy, Berstein, Gounod and Gillock performance report

As an integral part of the course, I attended the concert; *Music with a French Flair concert by Debussy, Berstein, Gounod and Gillock*, which was held on 2nd December 2017 at the *Westerbeck Recital Hall of the Center for the Arts located at Pasadena City College*. While the concert was planned under the *Pasadena City College Performing and Communication Arts Division Music Department*, it was directed by Philip Young, Jocelyn Chang and Wen-Ting Huang. The show started at 7 p.m and it was a combination of Piano and Orchestra. After entering the *Westerbeck Recital Hall*, it was clear that by no doubt the hall is one of the most spacious halls for professional musical performances. What was even more appealing was the lighting that the management at the college had set at the hall. The ceiling as well carried a 21st century sophistication that helped bring to life the performances however quite or slow. Ideally, the atmosphere at the hall was more formal and less casual as people maintained their silence in-between performances. Although the guest had mixed attired between casual and formal, the performers maintained a formal look. The slow piano accompanying ensembles music helps to bring a tone of reliability and fascination.

Different combinations of music were performed at the concert and they were done in different sessions. Ideally, the concert was opened by a performance of *Jean Joseph Mouret Rondeau* from his 1600 most popular *Suite de Symphonies*. It then proceeded to other acclaimed French composes between the early 17th century to the late 20th century. In order to perform this music, the groups had to have excellent skills in piano. Even more, simplicity was a common element experienced during the performance. The songs by themselves were a basic combination of chords and crotchets. While listening to the performance and comparing it with

my research, it was clear that although the notes from these songs were straightforward, it counted how the performers played them. The concert directors did so well go give the program notes to the guests. In right of this, I researched about the works after and before the performance. My research before the concert was mainly from Google.

With reference to the performance, the Baroque movement of music as guided by *Rondeau by Jean Joseph Mouret* stood out together with the Jazz movement with the song *April in Paris by Venon Duke*. While Baroque music may have some similarities, they are far too often worlds apart. The Baroque music started in the early 1600 while Jazz music was only invented in the 1900. Even more, both movements used strikingly contrasting instruments and formality. However, the Jazz music has adopted much from Baroque especially the rhythm. During the performance, it was evident that the Jazz performance was a bit more simplistic than the highly formal baroque music. Even more, the ensemble size in the Baroque orchestra was a little bit larger than that from Venon Duke's *April in Paris*. Unlike Jazz, Baroque movement used a lot of repeated chord progression.

The concert ended on a high note and I totally enjoyed the experience. However, if I had researched more on the songs I would have had a better experience since it would be easier to relate with the songs I have never heard. One surprising event during the performance was the use of guitar in *Antonio Vivaldi Baroque music*. Often times, instruments of Baroque music involve the harpsichord, violin, and the bass instruments but not the guitar. Ideally, I would love to attend more Jazz concerts in the future and perhaps relate them with the western music.

Please note: This report did not require references because it was an observational musical performance report.



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