

MUSC 10A – Online Music Appreciation

Items for your consideration regarding written assignments (#1-6).

Updated: November 2014

GENERAL ISSUES:

- Read the instructions for each assignment carefully. Everything you need to know for each event is clearly listed – leave nothing out, and do not add anything extraneous.
- When a chart or table is specified (e.g., Assignment #1 timing chart), create a clear and simple chart or table for that information. When narrative prose is required, write complete sentences.
- Separate paragraphs with a blank line (i.e., two carriage returns).
- Spelling, grammar, correct use of musical terms are important, and all are graded.
- Proof-read your work, and use your word processor's spell-checker and grammar-checker tools.
- No late work is accepted. Once the posted deadline has passed, the grade is an automatic 0%.
- Assignments #5 & #6 are concert reports, and they carry more graded weight than the earlier assignments. In addition to the instructions listed within the course itself, I have posted a separate document on my SJSU course website: 'Concert Report Instructions.' This detailed document addresses everything you need for these two assignments. You are responsible for reading and following everything presented in this document.

COMMON ERRORS TO AVOID - OVERALL:

- 'Song' is used only to describe vocal music from the folk, jazz, rock, pop worlds. In classical art music, vocal works may be an aria, art song, madrigal, or other specific term. Instrumental works are always referred to as compositions, or musical works – NEVER as songs. (NOTE: I count off points every time this error occurs.)

ASSIGNMENT #1 (Listening analysis – sectional time chart)

- Follow instructions: make a chart with start & end times, section letter, and brief description of important musical features of that section
- Write a brief summary paragraph beneath the chart
- Determine the overall formal structure from the chart

ASSIGNMENT #2 (Referential listening analysis from Section 1)

- Use proper formatting for music titles
- Two paragraphs are required for this assignment
- Clearly cite location of music within text

- Analyze the music from the Referential Listener perspective, not a technical or formal analysis.

ASSIGNMENT #3 (Instrument research)

- Five paragraphs are required for this assignment, one for each of the listed categories. Cite two web sites for each paragraph (and category).
- Paragraph #5 refers to the orchestra as a large ensemble, not a specific composition. Examples include the San Francisco Symphony or Symphony Silicon Valley. All major orchestras have their own web sites with extensive information about the ensemble. Then discuss if your selected instrument is included within this large ensemble, and in what capacity.
- Use proper formatting for music titles
- List birth & death dates for composers and performers
- OK to use same web resource for more than one category, if site contains significant information for each category. Site needs to be listed separately for each category
- OK to use same person for composer and performer, if that person is known as a professional in both areas.

ASSIGNMENT #4 (Advanced listening analysis)

- This assignment prepares you for the two Concert Reports to follow
- Follow the instructions – do not leave out any of the required details
- Include sectional timing chart (similar to Assignment #1)
- Use standard Italian musical terms for dynamics and tempo
- Spelling and grammar are seriously graded

ASSIGNMENT #5 & #6 (Concert Reports)

- Concert program (with ticket stub or usher punch) must be submitted prior to the posted deadline (a few days after the concert report deadline)
- Write about the three specified compositions from the concert
- Standard narrative form: complete sentences and paragraphs (5 paragraphs, as per the posted instructions)
- Correct formatting of music titles
- Use standard Italian musical terms for dynamics and tempo
- Address all of the required details for each of the three compositions