

(NOTE: THIS IS A SAMPLE REPORT FROM DAN MITCHELL'S MUSIC 1: INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC CLASS WEB SITE. SEE THE WEB SITE FOR COMMENTS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE FORMAT AND CONTENT OF THIS ASSIGNMENT AND ABOUT PROBLEMS ILLUSTRATED IN THIS SAMPLE REPORT – AND WHY IT WOULD NOT BE AN "A" PAPER.)

Johnny Jones
February 7, 1970
Second Concert Report
San Francisco Symphony
Seiji Ozawa, conductor

Beethoven: Fourth Symphony

Objective Description:

Beethoven's Symphony #4 in B-flat Major, opus 60 begins with a quiet introduction which has a very slow tempo. The violins play pizzicato. The tempo increases as the brass and the percussion join in. The french horn and the oboe have a solo. The flute and oboe then solo. The composer creates a variation by having a few notes played which are then followed by a rest. This technique is repeated. The intensity decreases and then increases. A clarinet solo is heard near the end of the movement.

The second movement begins very slowly with the violas and violins playing pizzicato. The oboe plays two notes over and over. The clarinets then come in and play the same two notes. From then on, the movement continues in a similar fashion, although some variations are in dynamics and instrumentation are added.

The intensity and tempo of the music increase in the third movement, making the music very lively. The oboes and the french horns play a little tune and the strings answer. This tune is repeated throughout the movement. The

intensity of the music increases and the movement ends.

The final movement begins with a very lively tempo and great intensity. The piccolo has a solo. Although the intensity and the tempo increase, other characteristics of the music remain somewhat the same. The oboe has a little solo and the intensity decreases, but it then increases again. The oboe plays four solo notes just before the symphony ends with great intensity.

Subjective Reaction:

I enjoyed listening to this symphony very much. I think it showed the other side of Beethoven very well. I do not like his Fifth Symphony as much since it is more harsh. It is interesting that a man who wrote a forceful symphony like the Fifth could write such a dignified, graceful symphony as his Fourth.

Xenakis: Eonta

Objective Description:

Eonta by Xenakis begins with a loud piano solo. The horns come in and play one note. While they hold this note they switch the way they point their horns. Then they all go over to the piano and play. The horns stop playing and the piano solos very softly. The horns sit down and three more horns are added to make eight. The piano plays two notes and then the horns play again. The five horns get up again and play at the piano. Then they sit down for the rest of the work. The entire work features dissonant sounds and seems to have no melodies at all. At one point in the piece it seems as though it will end. It ends a few bars later.

Subjective Reaction:

My personal opinion of the composition was that it was sick! Perhaps I am being too harsh, but it looked and sounded like a few of the inmates at the local mental hospital were given the use of a piano and eight horns and they had a field day.

Elgar: Enigma Variations:**Objective Description:**

The Enigma Variations, opus 36 is based on variations on one central theme. From time to time the violins play a bright and lively tune using pizzicato. The woodwinds answer or join in and the bassoon and oboes also join in on occasion. Suddenly, without warning, the music becomes solemn and very heavy; funeral march music would be a good description for it. Then it lightens up again for a time. The work is just full of surprises. In one place the music stops and it begins again with loud drums, brass, and the crashing of cymbals. Again the music stops, but now a soft light tune is played. The mood is very eerie at the end of the work as the kettle drums pound louder and louder then softer and softer. The clarinet solos softly just before the work ends.

Subjective Reaction:

I enjoyed this piece the most of the three. It was enjoyable to listen to as I didn't really know what to expect next. One minute it would almost make me cry and the next I couldn't help but laugh.

Quality of Performance:

I enjoyed the concert except for Eonta. I did not get anything out of the work except a headache. I think the other works which were chosen to go along with the piece were very contrasting. It would have been hard to sit through something very heavy after that second piece. I was surprised when they stopped to tune after the first movement of the Beethoven. I thought that it broke the mood of the performance. I tried to listen more this time and write a little less. As a result I believe that I got a great deal more out of this concert than the previous one. I'm glad that I went to a professional concert this time. The quality of the playing was phenomenal.