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**Understanding & Enjoyment of Music Concert Review**

**Ensemble Concert: Islander Brass Quintet+1, Islander Winds, and the Lichtenstein String Quartet on November 15**

On November 22 I attended The Ensemble Concert: Islander Brass Quintet+1, Islander Winds, and the Lichtenstein String Quartet performance. This concert was my favorite so far since COVID, I was truly at aww at some points, the music was beautiful. There were 3 different groups. The first being the Islander Winds with two clarinets, a flute, bassoon, and a French horn. The French horn made great contrast to all the high winds and complemented the Bassoon very well. Second was the Lichtenstein String Quartet with two violins, a viola, and a cello. This group was my favorite of all of them. They had a sense of humor and you could feel the passion in their music when they played. Finally, there was the Islander Brass Quintet+1. They had two trumpets, a French horn, trombone, and tuba. On their last piece was a percussionist girl who played on some sort of box, and I’m not quite sure if it was an actual instrument or not.4

The First piece was played by the Islander Winds group, but only two of them played this duet. They played Duo I from Three Duos for Clarinet and Bassoon, by Ludwig van Beethoven. The duet started off at a faster tempo, for the beginning of the piece the Bassoon player kept the temp going as the flute played high trills and sixtieth notes. Although the bassoons had a more rhythmic style, he still had his own melody, giving this piece a Polyphonic texture. They switch rolls after a while when they both played a downward scaler section of the duet creating a homophonic texture. Then the bassoon had more colorful melody’s as the flute had more rhythmic melodies while still being separate and polyphonic again.

The Duet dramatically changes suddenly to the bassoon playing a repeated eight note rhythms quietly as the flute plays soaring notes, they beautify sway over the base line creating a nice contrast in timbre while still pairing with each other. This lasts for a short time before they start passing the melody to each other back and forth. This continues until they both land on the same note ending the duet peacefully yet suddenly.

The Islander Winds group then played one more piece called: Wind Quintet in Ab Major by Gustav Hoist. They then switched groups to the Lichtenstein String Quartet my personal favorite group of the night, they were amazing, and I would love to hear this music again. The first peace they plated was Concerto in D minor RV 127 by Antonio Vivaldi. The next two pieces where unique. Danzas de Panama by William Grant Still. This song had many obvious 20th century styles. The most obvious when they played their instruments seeming incorrect by knocking on them or playing what would usually be high squeaky inappropriate notes into a well-constructed song. Lastly, they played the last part to String Quartet in F Major by Antonin Dvorak. Finally, the last Group showed up. The Islander Brass Quintet +1. They started off with the piece Western Fanfare by Eric Ewazen. Next, they performed Three Pieces for Brass by Ludwig Maurer, then White Rose Elegy by Caleb Hudson.

The last peace of the night was Livertango by Astor Piazzolla. This was a Argentinean dance number. This piece was the where there plus one came in and played along side them to give the piece a more dance like feel with some percussion. The piece begins with strong trumpet that takes the melody and a menacing tuba in the back playing strong bass line. The two trumpets quickly start fighting for the melody, playing one after the other in quick recession almost bickering with each other. There is a lot of joy in this song and you can here it as they play. The percussionist plays a steady strong rhythm switching between syncopation and not. This drives the music forward and gives it a strong dance feel. When the trumpets lose the melody the trombone and the French horn take over. The French horn takes the melody using a beautiful vibrato that shook the room. The trumpets come back and dominate the sound. This time working together. Filling the room with breathtaking sound and volume. They then start to play the same theme over and over until they reach a dramatic conclusion the dance piece.

One of the most intriguing things about this concert is that not one time did anyone conduct anyone else. They were able to play accelerando and switch to smore moderato tempos and they never missed a beat, I wonder how hard it is, and how you practice something so difficult.

Overall, the concert was amazing with the String quartet taking the show by far, the other groups did not come close to how amazing they were. I do think that the brass group need a bit more practice, for one of the songs there where all fighting to be heard and there was a lot of noise in their sound. This concert really put to display some great 20th century music and how you can play instruments in untraditional ways. I would tell my peers to watch this program and prepare for some of the most wacky songs played in the most beautiful of ways.