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**Understanding & Enjoyment of Music Concert Review**

**TAMUCC Orchestra Consort Review on September 22**

On September 22 I attended a TAMUCC Orchestra performance. This was the first live performances I’ve been to since the start of COVID-19 and I was very excited to finally be in a concert setting, being a band nerd. The first thing I noticed was the light instrumentation with only a few violins violas and Chellos, it was the same group throughout with different soloists. Each soloists’ instruments included a Viola, Violin, Oboe, Cello, and Bassoon. Each of the soloist brought a unique tone and timber to the pieces making each piece unique and at least one movement form each unforgettable.

All the pieces composers where alive from 1653 to 1809 During the Baroque and Classical periods, the pieces where all Concertos. The first musical piece was Concerto in G major for Viola and String Orchestra by Georg Telemann. The first movement in this piece started of light and flowing, very pianissimo. But as the soloist joins in the music starts to swell and crescendo. As the Concerto goes on the Orchestra long slow-moving notes start to almost drag, but the Soloists Vibrato brakes up the notes to make the music almost Zen and peaceful. This moment is broken when the soloist starts to jump from higher to lower notes showing of the rage on the instrument. This too ends dramatically when most of the orchestra cuts out just leaving the Soloist and Bass voices before the end of the movement.

The second movement starts off almost dance like, a nice contrast compared to the first movement. The concerto demonstrates imitation as both the orchestra and soloist throw rhythms and themes at each other while still pushing the dance like feel throughout the peace. The Chellos start to play a ground bass that brings the music to a stand still making the listener almost anxious to move on, this leads to a mall key change for a few measures building more anxiety and clinginess before its released and becomes dance like again, the movement ends with a swelling finishing note.

The third movement you can tell is immediately different because it starts off in a minor key. The music is slow and calming, while also being grand having crescendos and decrescendos. The orchestra quiets down and almost goes away sinking to a pianissimo leaving the soloist to be dramatic and almost lonely sounding calling out for the orchestra. The soloist represents the loneliness by long drawn out notes in a ritardando that slows the peace down. The music starts to pick up again and the Orchestra can be heard well. The music turns to a major key, but accidentals are thrown in to make it sound jarring. This is all happening while the orchestra crescendo to make a flamboyant ending.

In the fourth and final movement of this peace it was almost a different orchestra. The music sounded fun, and they played it like it was. You could see the Orchestra dancing along each to there own part having a blast. This and the same idea carried throughout the piece created something amazing to listen to and watch. When the Soloist hits an important part of the melody the orchestra joins in to emphasize the part. This turns again into tension as the emphasizing stops and the cords start to clash, making the listener long for a resolution.

The Concertos that fallowed where: Concerto Grosso in D Major by Arcangelo Corelli, Concerto for Violin and Oboe in V Minor by Johann Sebastian Bach, Cello Concerto By Franz Joseph Haydn. Each soloist or soloists from each selection brought a different timbre.

The Last Concerto was my personal favorite the bassoons low sounds made amazing divergence form the rest of the orchestra, whose range got stale after a while. The bassoons Vibrato brought out a tone color not yet heard bringing the listers ear back to the concert even after hours of hearing music. Along with the sounds the soloist ability to jump from melody to bass line was impressive. One of the things the bassoonist did was he oriented himself towards and away from the audience to make more dramatic dynamical difference. The last movement of this concerto was fast paste and did not slow down like every other movement and concerto beforehand. It sounded dark and ominous, while remaining fast past, only comparable to the imperial march. The tone of this song sounded like it was on a mission.

The overall experience of the Orchestra was exiting, being in band my whole life I’ve never gotten a good opportunity to listen to string instruments. This was my first time in a orchestra concert in particular. I noticed that string players don’t have as much dynamic range as wind instruments. I would encourage my fellow students to listen to this orchestra and a band to try and find the differences in their styles and timbre. Listening to a band will probably be my next go to for the next concert review. I want to then listen to a full orchestra with both wind and string players. Overall, my concert experience was incredible and I would love to see more.