Stephen Giang

Bing Luu

Music 100

November 16, 2018

Live Concert Report 2

1. Date of Concert – November 14, 2018
2. Name of Concert attended – Recital Hour
3. Place of Concert – Mesa College
4. Type of Concert – Guitar Ensemble
5. Director of Ensemble – George Svoboda
6. Titles of Compositions – [ Air ; Es ist Ein Ros Entsprungen ; Sarabande and Variations ; La Rossignol ; Concerto in C Major RV 399, 2nd Movement ; Fiesta Andalucia ; Four Romanian Miniatures ; Heat Advisory ; Malaguena ; Come Together ; Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da ; Hey Jude ; Yellow Submarine ]
7. There visual effects used in the pieces were the placement of all the seats. The seats were arranged in a half circle to produce a surround sound for the audience. The second thing that I noticed was that the conductor was off to the far left and not in the center. The conductor stated that he was off to the side so that the audience can better enjoy the performers, and that he “was just going to be ignored anyways”. The performers were also sorted based off the type of guitars as I could hear different tunes from different sides of the ensemble.
8. The culture of the music played by the ensemble was Romanian, Spanish, and Pop. The songs Fiesta Andalucia and Malaguena were the Spanish songs that really held true to their Latin roots. The Romanian music reminded me of traditional Romanian folk music found in Vampire movies. Lastly, the Pop Culture music was music from the Beatles.
9. The thing that stood out in this guitar ensemble was the great use of different tunes all at the same time. As I can remember, there were very distinct and lower pitched tunes coming off from the right side, and quieter higher pitched tunes coming from the left. What else I noticed was the harmony of all the different sounds coming together. This was very different from my first concert report with Jim Earp. Jim Earp was a soloist, whereas this was an ensemble of guitars that showed many different tunes, beats, and rhythms all playing at the same sound to make a nice harmony of music.
10. The reason why I chose this concert was because after hearing Jim Earp, I was very interested in guitars and wanted to hear the different melodies that different guitars can produce. It was simply an exploration of guitars and the different sounds that can come from a single instrument. A guitar is like a language. There are different versions, that sound different, each have different sounds that can be produced, and all have the same general concept around them. What I liked was the different types of melodies and tunes. I don’t have anything to truly dislike because I am not experienced enough to judge other people’s ability to play an instrument that even I do not know.
11. The composition that I liked the best was the Fiesta Andalucia by Georg Rist because I have an affinity towards Spanish music. The music was very relaxing, with distinct low beats. There was a very fast tempo at one point that faded down to a slower tempo with an even lower tune to it. This piece would almost sound like a very nice lullaby or a nice slow dance at a fiesta. It even has a very joyous and upbeat portion that makes me think of dancing.
12. Something I noticed was that the performers were swaying back and forth or tapping their foot based on the tempo. I found this a very interesting technique so that each performer in the ensemble was all in sync with the music. If everyone is playing their correct tempo, then the music goes smoothly, but a mess up in tempo can disrupt the entire performance. In addition, the performers would close their eyes to indicate them trying to hear out certain tunes in the ensemble.