Stephen Giang

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Music 100

October 7, 2018

Live Concert Report

1. Date of Concert – September 26, 2018
2. Name of Concert attended – Recital Hour
3. Place of Concert – Mesa College
4. Type of Concert – Harp Guitar
5. Name of Performer – Jim Earp
6. Titles of Compositions – [ String Theory, Book of Kells, Taos Hum, Ho’ohuli, Clouds Over Mojave, Lei’ Awapuhi, Radio Hula, Entertainer, Moe’uhane Hula, Borrego, Hill of Tara, Walking on the Moon, Of Men and of Angels, Lakota]
7. There visual effects used in the piece were ‘two-handed tapping.’ This not only gave a great effect to the music, but was a nice visual aid that really enticed the crowd. It made the concert more enjoyable and gave us something different to look at besides normal strumming of the guitars. He also adjusted his mixer, which was connected to his guitars, towards the crowd so we could see the settings he was on for educational purposes. One of the last things I noticed visually was that Jim Earp was tapping his feet, in a staggering motion, to the tempo of each song. This doesn’t do anything visually, but really helped me, as a student, get the hang of each tempo of the songs.
8. The culture of the music played through the harp guitar was Hawaiian songs. Many of these songs were based off a Hawaiian background. Jim Earp said many of these songs that were played by the harp guitar were Hawaiian because of its calm and peaceful nature he says. The harp guitar produces a peaceful sound that reflects his feelings towards Hawaii. Other songs that were played also reflected his history. ‘The Clouds over Mojave’ was a spin off his hot trip to the Arizona. He used many low beats in these pieces and changed the tempo from fast to faster and back down to fast throughout the song.
9. Many of the pieces were very steady. There were no distinct beats, or timbre, in any one song. Each song shared its own melody, different from every other. Jim Earp chose very different songs with a different rhythms and different tempos. For example, the piece ‘Ho’ohuli’ was a nice calm piece with a steady rhythm and a medium tempo. The piece ‘The Entertainer’ had a very irregular pattern of beats with a fast tempo. Each piece was different from every other, as Jim Earp says “I wanted to give you a taste of everything.”
10. I chose this concert because I am an actual fan of Jim Earp. My friend who loves folk and traditional music introduced me to Jim Earp. He was such a nice man who truly found humor and joy in what he does. He has been playing guitar forever now, and still furthers his knowledge by picking up the harp guitar. I loved his two handed tapping, that was the coolest thing I have ever seen someone do, on a guitar that is. I also really loved the bass coming from the harp guitar. Lastly, I really liked how he showed us his mixer, and showed us how he produces great sound on a low budget. The only thing I disliked was maybe the lack of visual effects, however, I still loved the performance.
11. One Composition I really loved was the ‘Clouds over Mojave.’ It was an original composition by Jim Earp’s CD “Smiles to Go” in 1999. The reason I enjoyed this composition the most was because of its irregular rhythm, fast tempo, and two handed tapping. The piece was a huge eye opener in seeing a more fast paced song after a fewer slower pieces. I believe the coolest thing, which made me enjoy this piece the most, was the two handed tapping. He was playing the guitar on the neck near the fret wires. This was the reason toward the fast tempo. This was my favorite piece.
12. The expectations I came in knowing already of Jim Earp was very high. I knew he had been playing guitar forever and his musical prowess. He did show that he was very good at his art. I didn’t see anything wrong in his playing of the Harp Guitar, but he said he messed up multiple times because he is just starting out on this instrument. He also had to tune his songs multiple times because he couldn’t get the right tune. I don’t think I heard anything wrong, but Jim Earp must have more experience in listening to the tune and pitch better than me. I was still overall impressed with the whole thing.