For my second concert review, I attended the Fall Quarter Student Piano Recital on Tuesday. It consisted of 11 students playing classical pieces on the piano. The time period of the pieces ranged from 1685 with Bach to the late 1900's with Samuel Barber. After having experienced the first concert review with the SLO symphony, I wanted to try to really analyze these pieces more in-depth, but it that was easier said than done. I was able to recognize what parts sounded in major and minor keys, but other than that the music was just so complex and fast paced at times that I couldn't keep up yet again. It was easy to tell that these students had lots of experience playing the piano. Because there were so many performers I won't get into detail about each performance, just my observations about the recital as a whole.

Having very rarely listened to classical music, I found that I liked the Beethoven performances the most. To me they seemed more complex and I thought they had a better range of notes. Without looking at the program, however, I could not tell what key the pieces were in. I still have not been able to completely associate the sounds to the name of the keys, which made it very hard to try to do an in depth analysis of the music as it was playing. For the most part, I could guess if the piece was in major or minor correctly, but other than that I could not get anything else from the piece. It also seemed to me that even if the piece was played in a major key, if it was played in the lower notes it almost sounded minor at some points. The same thing happened with the minor pieces, if they had a portion where they were playing higher notes it sounded nearly major, just from the emotion it brings up.

While listening to the recital I found that the pieces with a faster tempo were more exciting to me, because the notes really seemed to link together. For the slow pieces, sometimes it felt that the notes were being lost because of how slow it was being played. The slow pieces also had a very minor key feel to them, because I associated very slow music to sadness most of the time. The same thing happened with the fast paced pieces, even if it was in a minor key it had a sense of hope to it because of how fast it was being played.

Overall the recital was a very good experience, and I was able to listen to some classical music that I had never heard before. I will definitely be looking into some more classical pieces to see if there is anything I also enjoy. I have a lot more appreciation for the composers now after realizing just how complex each of their pieces are, and how they were able to coordinate all of those different sounds together to create wonderful music.