NAME: Wei Xian Lim

NAME OF EVENT: Honors Piano Recital

PERFORMANCE DATE: February 17, 2019

I have attended quite a few piano concerts at Iowa State University, but this is my first time attending a concert that young students are playing the piano instead of adults. This event was held by the Department of Music and Music Teachers of Central Iowa. The concert features the 2019 Winners and Alternates of the Iowa Music Teachers Association District Auditions in Ames. I personally like piano music a lot, but I do not know how to play the piano.

The concert was held at Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall. I like the atmosphere of the recital hall, and I think that it is a venue that is really suitable for a piano concert. The recital hall is considered one of the premier acoustic environments in the middle east. The recital hall has a very good soundproof quality, it also reduces the echo in the hall. The recital hall has 305 seats. The plain wooden stage and all the lights except the stage lights were dimmed. Programs were stacked by the door for the audience to pick up as they entered. We were not required to wear formal clothing like an orchestra concert. I feel more comfortable to wear normal clothing to watch the concert. This kind of set up helps in making the concert not so serious in a way. The audience is mainly the children’s parent.

There are a few things that didn’t work with me for this piano concert. First of all, the event was not announced properly, as they stated the starting time wrong on the Department of Music official website. So, I have to wait in the hall for 30 minutes until the concert begin. There are thirty children perform during the concert. Also, there are a lot of children wandering around during the event. The kid would run to their parents or run to their friends and talk. There’s one moment where the kid plays with a table which makes a pretty loud noise. I felt really annoyed because they made a lot of noise when the pianist is playing. One more thing that they did not do right was introduced the student’s name and the song they going to play beforehand. Because I would not know what song is being played at that moment, which makes me really confused. Also, the ushers of the event should restrict people from coming into the recital hall after the event has started. This is because when people come in and out during the event, it distracts the audience and more importantly the student performers. It may also affect their performance which is not ideal. I also realize there were audiences who play with their phones during the performance, some even bring out the laptop during the performance. I find it really disrespectful to the performer.

Despite the noise, I really enjoy the performance from them. I can feel that they really enjoy playing the piano. One of the pianists that really impress me was Micky Wu, He did a good job playing a song called “Toccatina”. He plays the piano really fast and accurate, also, he could play the music notes without any music sheets at the same time. The student who played Columbia: Great River of the West also showed her talent in playing the piano. She played the piano to the point where she’s in her own world, focused fully in the performance. There is also one student who played “The Mists of Rainier” by Valerie Roth Roubos. This piece has a variety of melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic structures. Also, there are quite a number of students who are really young, and for that age, they were able to perform such fast rhythm piano song is really impressing. This shows that they have sufficient practice and they play really well too. I genuinely think they will grow up becoming a professional pianist.

My overall reaction for this piano concert is that they can do better than what they did that night. On that night, there are more than half of the audiences leave before the concert really ends. Although I do not understand what is the reason that makes them leave, I think that they should show some respect to the student performers. The student performers do dress formally and show a clean look, which is good for performance.

In conclusion, I did not really enjoy the piano concert as there are too many noises during the performance. But I think the reason is that it is not a ‘formal’ kind of concert, so I cannot expect much from it. However, I still think the students play the piano really well, even though it may not be the best out there. So, I think this piano concert did not pass the “acid test”, as I am not entirely satisfied with the concert.

