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NAME OF EVENT: Jazz Concert PERFORMANCE DATE: 15 OCTOBER 2018

This is my first time attending a Jazz concert at M-shop, other than orchestra concert in my country. In this jazz concert, there are 3 group of student bands with the ISU Department of Music and Theatre performing that night. It provided me with the chance to experience jazz music, as I am not a person that listens to jazz music. Thus, I know nothing about jazz music.

I was quite pleased by the concert environment of M-shop, which is totally different from an orchestra concert that I have attended before. For instance, there’s a mini bar inside the M-shop which serve popcorn, beer, etc. And the seats are arranged just right in front or around the performance stage, which is good for someone that arrive early at the venue, and you can see the performers up close and personal like nowhere else. Moreover, the audience doesn’t have to wear formal clothing just like an orchestra concert, I feel more comfortable to wear normal clothing. Furthermore, the lighting they used is more colorful compared to orchestra concert.

There are a few things that didn’t “work” with me for the jazz concert. First, the jazz concert started late, and the performers are not fully prepared. So, there’s one member from the first band trying to find his music sheets when everyone is prepared. In my opinion, performers must be fully prepared in everything before the performance. Second, M-shop did not prepare a concert setlist. Therefore, I don’t remember all the song that has been played by the bands. They just randomly announced the title of the song before or after every song is played. Nonetheless, me and my friends went to inquire about the song’s names from one of the band leaders after the concert ends. This is because the person in charge doesn’t even know what the song that had been played by the band. Also, the student bands should give their bands a name, I would prefer to call them by their band name than calling them first, second, third student band. Third, the audiences are noisy, I find that it is quite annoying when the other audience clap or even shout the wrong time before the music really ends. Furthermore, it is pretty much obvious that the band members from the first band is nervous and have insufficient practice. For example, their saxophonist keeps staring at the music sheets and doesn’t have any body movement during the performance. Then, I think the performers should arrange who’s the one that are going to introduce their group or prepare what are they going to speak on the stage. During the concert, they just start the concert without introduce themselves. It makes people confuse that what song is being played or what’s the current band playing the song.

However, I enjoyed the performance by the second and third student bands. I can feel that they enjoyed playing the songs. I found that all the drummers including the drummer from the first band, have impressive body movements. The pianist in the second band composed a song by himself. As a person that know how to plays piano, I am amazed at his composing skill and how fast and accurate he can play the music notes without music sheets at the same time. In addition, their cellist did a splendid job too, her plucking skills is superb, there’s a high tempo part, she plays it without any mistake. On the other hand, I am impressed with the third band, as they added an extra song on the spot on the concert because they still have time for it. This shows that they have sufficient practice and they play well too especially the two saxophonists and the drummer of the band. The last song is pretty intense, it is a song with fast rhythms.

My overall reaction for this jazz 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 don’t understand what is the reason that make them leave, I think that they should show some respect to the performers. On the other hand, I think the performers should have a dress code. For instance, it doesn’t look good when there’s half of the member in the bands dress in formal dress code, and half of them wear casual clothing. After all, visual image is one of an important matter during a performance.

In conclusion, for my first experience to attend a jazz concert, I don’t really enjoy it but I will still try to attend more jazz concert in the future. This is because the first one doesn’t represent all the jazz concert is terrible. There might be a better one somewhere out there. So, I think this jazz concert did not pass the “acid test”, as I am not entirely satisfied with the concert.