

**CORE 1130 – TR3B – Spring 2013**  
**Major Project – Concert Report / Research Project**

Overview

Each student will prepare a combined concert report and research project. Students will select a musical event to attend, document, and on which to report, and relate it to background information they have researched about the composer(s), artist(s), genre(s), piece(s), instrument(s), setting, and other key aspects of the event.

You may attend the same event as a classmate, but should work independently to do the research and produce your report.

Event Options

You may report on any event at which a musical performance or engagement with music plays a prominent role. In past semesters, students have reported on rock, pop, and hip hop concerts, classical music concerts and operas, dance music events, church services and other religious rituals or festivals, weddings, musicians who play at subway stations, and more!

For a list of concerts organized by the Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music, see <http://bcmusic.org/> (but note that most of these are in the Western art-music tradition). There are probably hundreds (if not thousands) of musical events happening in NYC every day! Find one that truly interests you! Let me know if you are looking for events in a particular cultural tradition.

Assignments, Due Dates, and Grading

(You are welcome to submit your work before the due date)

**Event Proposal – Due March 19 (10% of Grade) [Email]**

Each student should submit a proposal for the musical event on which they wish to report/present. You must receive approval from the instructor before proceeding with your project. In your proposal, which should be emailed to the instructor at [josh@telepath.ca](mailto:josh@telepath.ca), you should write 2-3 sentences identifying the musical event you will be reporting on and what aspect of it you are planning to research. Telling me in class what event you will report on does not satisfy the requirements for this assignment!

**Attending Your Event**

After clearing your proposed event with the instructor, you will attend the event and take note of various aspects. In particular, I would like you to relate your chosen event to the materials discussed in the first weeks of class. In other words, you should relate the musical event to its music-culture (or subculture), and discuss some aspects of the music and instrumentation, as well as any other important or interesting things that arise in the course of your research. Some questions you MIGHT ask yourself about your event are:

What is the context for this musical event (venue, neighborhood, time, season, festival, ritual, etc.)? What is the repertory of music being played? What genres, styles, etc.? Who are the performers, and who is the audience (in terms of ethnicity, gender, class, etc.)? Does the music being played in any way tie in to the identities of the performers/audience? What are some ideas about music that are being expressed through this event? What are the economics of this musical event? Is there a cover charge? Are the performers being paid? Is the promoter aiming to make a profit? What are the aesthetic values of the music at this event? How is this music composed, learned, transmitted? What are the rhythms, meters, melodic qualities, textures, timbres, and forms featured in the music you heard? What types of instruments and ensembles were used?

BUT: Please do not structure your report as a series of answers to these questions, and don't try to answer those that you cannot answer confidently.

Unless prohibited by the event organizers or the artist, you should attempt to capture some audiovisual documentation (pictures, video, or audio) of the event you attend.

### **Research Summary – Due April 30 (30% of Grade) [Hard copy and Blackboard]**

Each student must conduct research to find information that will help contextualize the musical event he or she is reporting on. Some possible areas to research are the biography of the composer(s) and/or artist(s), the history of the genre(s), historical information about the piece(s) performed, background information about the event, etc. The topic of research will depend on the type of event you attend. For example, a student reporting on a wedding might research traditional wedding music and the customs associated with it; a student reporting on a concert by a Korean pop star would research the recent history of Korean pop and the biography of the performer(s).

Each student must find **AT LEAST one academic writing** (book or article from an academic journal) and **one other written source** (print articles, books, online articles or relevant organizations' websites, etc.). For help in locating sources for your research, see the section "Helpful Resources for Research on Music" on Blackboard > Course Documents > Student Projects.

**Note:** Wikipedia, ehow.com, and other such sites are not acceptable sources to cite in academic work. Wikipedia articles may help point you to other sources on a topic, but you should not assume that Wikipedia posts are accurate.

Your research summary should be one page double-spaced, and should be a draft of the research section that you will include in your final report, and should be written IN YOUR OWN WORDS. Please cite your sources in accurate citation format (see the "How to Cite Sources" document, under the "Student Projects" folder on Blackboard).

### **Final Report – (60% of Grade)**

All students will prepare a final report on their event and related research. The final report may take one of the following forms:

1. **A 3 page written report.** [Blackboard Submission] Reports should be double-spaced, typed in 12-point font, with margins no larger than 1 inch on all sides. All reports must list the student's name, the date of submission, and a title for the report. No other information need be included. Your written report must be in regular English prose and be free of grammatical error or spelling mistakes. Please allocate some time to proof-reading and editing your report. Your report will be evaluated on both its content and the quality of the writing. All sources consulted for your report should be listed in accurate citation format (see the "How to Cite Sources" document, under the "Student Projects" folder on Blackboard).  
**Due May 20.**
2. **A blog entry.** [Email URL to Instructor] Create a blog entry using an online blogging tool. The text of your entry should be the equivalent of at least 2 pages double-spaced (approximately 600-700 words), and link to or have embedded in it two audio/visual sources. Your blog entry does not need to be published publicly, but should be accessible via the internet through a URL that you will email to the instructor. Your blog entry must be in regular English prose and be free of grammatical error or spelling mistakes. Please allocate some time to proof-reading and editing your entry; it will be evaluated on both its content and the quality of the writing. **Due May 20.**
3. **A 5-7 minute in-class presentation.** Prepare a 5-7 engaging public presentation on your event and research. Be as imaginative and creative as you feel comfortable, while still making sure to clearly convey your points. Prepare slides in a presentation program (e.g. PowerPoint or equivalent) to display the main points you are discussing. BUT: PLEASE DO NOT READ EXACTLY WHAT IS ON YOUR POWERPOINT!!! This is a poor presentation style and you will lose marks if you do this. During your presentation, you must show pictures, videos, or play audio recordings from the musical event, and you may play short excerpts of other relevant clips. **Presentations will take place on May 9<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.** You must notify me NO LATER THAN APRIL 23<sup>rd</sup> if you intend to do a presentation.

NOTE: ALL REPORTS WILL BE CHECKED FOR PLAGIARISM. If you are unsure about what counts as plagiarism, or if you struggle with writing, I advise you to visit Brooklyn College's Learning Center to receive assistance with your report. See <http://brooklyn-wac.org/students> for more information, or make an appointment with me. There are lots of resources available to help you... which you pay for... use them!

All students must submit evidence of attendance at a musical event. Such evidence may include concert programs, tickets, or a photo of the student at the event.