



## How to structure a concert review.

### Define The Performance

The entire purpose of the review is to describe the event so the reader transposes to the event while reading your review. Include the location, the weather, the music, the musicians, venue, time, and location. Let them live the experience through your eyes.

It is not a bad idea to view a recent YouTube.com video of a performance to get an idea of what to expect. Most tours are the same from city to city and it can be very helpful if your photographing the band. Where are the band members standing, what is the best angle for each band member? Is there leaps or pyrotechnics that would make a great image? Try not to be surprised by anything and be prepared.

1.) To do a review properly, you need to listen and watch.

How is the performance?

How is the audience reacting to the performance?

How is the stage lighting?

How are the acoustics?

How do you feel as you take in the performance?

What emotions do you feel?

All of these questions help make a powerful concert review.

2.) Take notes!

Are the performers engaging the audience between songs?

What are they wearing?

What are they saying to the audience?

How is the audience responding to what is being said?

Many times, performers have a relationship with a town or a venue. These are good points to make. Is it their hometown?

Was there something the performer remembered about the last or past performances at a location?



3.) Get a setlist or a picture of the setlist to add to your review. You won't believe what you can remember after the show with a point of reference to when a song was played. If not available, SetList.com publishes the list within 48 hours in most cases.

4.) Review the performers:

Take notes about how well (or poorly) the musicians played, if there was any outstanding piece (and, if so, why?), and whether or not there was any stage banter. Be as descriptive and detailed as possible, including the performers' positions, attire, gestures, etc. You might also want to pay attention to the backup players; lead singers are not the only stars. Don't let your review be only a critique of the center stage.

5.) Review the audience:

While your focus should be on what the musicians do, not the audience, it may be useful for your readers to know what type of fans showed up, how the audience responded.

Was it a large or small crowd. Whether the show was sold out or only 10 fans showed up, audience size and their response have a tendency to affect the musicians' performance.



## After the Concert, Writing your review:

### A. Introduction.

Your introduction should include the title, venue, and date of the concert, and names of musicians/ensembles/conductors. You may also include details, such as the specific locale, to give readers unfamiliar with the area a better idea of where the concert took place. Also, if the concert was held earlier in the day, or extremely late at night, be sure to mention that.

### B. Description.

The main body of the concert review should include brief discussions of each piece played during the concert you attended. Do not quote the program notes: you should write your own observations on the performance. The format of your description may be varied according to the genres of music, but it should include: the title of each piece and the name of the composer and/or musician; basic and brief information about the composer and/or piece; and your reaction to the piece. Add a list of Band members.

### C. Evaluation.

Based on your notes, be sure to mention what made attending the concert worthwhile. What about the experience was new or different for you? Expand on your writing by augmenting it with relevant facts such as the history of the band or the effect the venue had on the performance. Be honest about whether you individually enjoyed the concert and how, in your opinion, the audience as a whole responded. Also, include in your review the acoustic quality of the music -if the live music deviated from studio versions of music as well as the effect of the music on the crowd.

### D. Add links to your review.

We are an online magazine. This helps the reader and in the page rankings.

### F. Conclusion.

Your conclusion should summarize your overall impression of the concert. **Do not include** any new information (for example, upcoming events) in the conclusion.