

Professor Muresan

Music Appreciation

3 March 2014

30

Community Ensembles Festival

I attended the Community Ensembles Festival in Costa Mesa. There were many schools that preformed including Golden West, Saddleback College, Placentia, Huntington Beach, Laguna Concert Band and many more. I choose to do my report on the Saddleback College Emeritus Institute Symphony and the song they performed was Jean Sibelius's Finlandia.

The first element is sound – in the element I will review the timbre and texture of the song. The timbre, or the instruments that color the song, would include flutes, oboes, clarinets, bassoons, horns, trumpets, tuba, triangle, cymbals, bass drum and strings. The melody is very soothing throughout the song yet it does get its high points and its lower points but seems to stay very homophonic throughout the song.

The next element is harmony with consist of either consonance or dissonance. Consonance is a sound that is very pleasing at happy to the ears whereas dissonance hurts the ears and is very uncomfortable. This songs harmony is consonance and like it stated earlier it is very calming and soothing. Although it has its fast pasted sections and louder sections I would still consider it to be a consonance. It has little drops and step offs in the song not giant leaps. The overall feel I got from this song was very pleasing and keep the audience intrigued yet wasn't hurtful to the ears.

Melody can be hard to describe but it consists of three main parts range, shape and motion. Range consists of three parts as well narrow, medium and wide. The distance between the highest and lowest note seems to be very wide. This is a part of the song which I got to be very loud and then it goes down to a quiet pitch. The range between these two points makes me believe it has a wide range. The shape seems to be up and down as well. It goes hand and hand with the range. The motion of the song would be considered conjunct because of its smooth texture and its easy flowing rhythm. Even if the tone changes it still has a smooth feel to it.

The rhythm in this song includes syncopated rhythms which mean that there are unexpected parts to the song or there are beats that are interrupting the normal beat on purpose. However, with the way that it flows these unexpected beats seem to not make much of a drastic change to the beat. The meter and tempo seem to be changing but I can't figure out how many meters there are

The final element is the growth of the song. This is easier to determine when the song has lyrics because usually you can match up the verses to determine the form of the song. Now it is a little harder because there are no words so you need to match up the parts of the song. Like we discussed in class some musicians try to trick the listener. I had a hard time trying to figure it out so I had to go home and listen to it a few more times but I finally came up with ABACABA.

This is not a typical concert I would have attended but I really enjoyed it and I liked this song the best out of the ones played. All of the musicians were wonderful and they should get

more credit than they are given. They seem like they are professionals to me. The conductor was also fun to watch, and although I don't know much about their job it seems like it is pretty tough. The audience seems to be very intrigued and I will most likely attend another concert like this in my future. The audience consisted of mostly family members of the musicians. There were about 8 different schools who attended this concert and they all seemed to put on a good show. I think all the schools had a different style to their performance but they all were very similar in many ways. I would have never attended a concert like this if it wasn't for this class but I am glad that I did because I really enjoyed it and I truly learned a lot about music and the hard work that goes into them. It is not only hard to write music but it is difficult to learn it and play it as well as the musicians who were performing did. It seems like many of these musicians have been playing for quite some time. I am very thankful I went to this concert and took this class because it has taught me a lot about what goes into making musician and it makes me appreciate it more than I have in the past.

Excellent!