Project

Concert Program Notes

Have you ever been to a concert and wondered about the person who wrote the music, why they titled the piece the way they did, what they were thinking when they wrote it, and why they made the musical decisions they did? Did you know that there are people whose job is to write what are called "**Program Notes**" for concerts? Program Notes are typically written for classical music concerts – rarely (if ever) for popular music. These program notes contain all sorts of information about the composer and the composition. In this podcast project, you will work in groups to create a podcast (2-3 minutes long) about one of the pieces that you are performing in the upcoming school concert. Your teacher will assign your group the piece, and then you will need to answer the questions below.

Project Requirements:
- Your podcast should be 2 to 3 minutes in length.
- You will announce the title of the piece and the composer or arranger of the piece.
  - If the piece is an original work, it will have a composer. If the piece has been arranged or adapted for your ensemble, it will have an arranger.
  - If your assigned piece has an arranger, you should focus on the original composer of the work.
- Many pieces that are performed by school ensembles have program notes already included by the composer or arranger. If your piece does, your teacher will share them with you. You should include those notes in your podcast.
  - If the program notes are very long, you should summarize them into no more than a paragraph.
- Using as much musical vocabulary as possible, describe the piece.
  - What is the instrumentation?
    - » If it is an arrangement, what was the original instrumentation of the piece?
  - How is the piece structured? Are there multiple sections?
  - If there are lyrics, who wrote them? What do you think they mean?
- How difficult was this piece for you and your ensemble to learn?
- Did you enjoy performing this piece? Why? Why not?

When you have completed your podcast, submit it to your teacher for assessment. Don't worry about creating a QR code for your podcast – your teacher will do that!

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