

Writing a Performance Critique

What is a “Performance Critique”? Well, it is a short evaluation, assessment or review of a performance that involves thoughtful, honest and constructive praise or criticism.

How do you write “Performance Critiques” about someone else’s music? My suggestion is to start with writing down what you liked or didn’t like about what you heard. Use descriptive adjectives and maybe compare what you heard to something else. Once you start writing, more ideas of what to say will just “come to you”. Here are some examples of what you might say to get you started:

“The melody was choppy and bouncing all over the place - but I liked it because it had a positive energy.”

“When the chords are played loud, they sound like thunder. I like how they sound loud and powerful.”

“I really liked the jazzy chord progressions used in the harmony ... especially the ones with Major Seventh Chords.”

“This song is really slow and it’s hard for me to stay focused while listening to it.”

“I had a hard time following the melody because it moved so fast and twisted around so much.”

“I thought the harmony in this version was boring and empty and didn’t give much support to the development of the melody.”

How do you write a “Performance Critique” about your own music? My suggestion is actually the same as before ... start with writing down what you liked or didn’t like about what you heard. Use descriptive adjectives and maybe compare what you heard to something else. Here are some examples of what you might say:

“The opening is nice & soft and then the buildup in the Introduction to the Verse is smooth. I like how I can move from the Intro into the Verse with energy.”

“I like how the chords sound when I play them softly ‘cause they sound like the low rumble of an engine.”

“This melody is so gentle and sweet. I like playing melodies that flow like a river.”

“The ending is strong, but I think I should build-up to it a little more in the section before.”

“I hear a lot of different patterns in the melody, but they are all blending together like too many people talking at once.”

“It sounds like the song is dragging in some places and then faster in other places, so it sounds uneven and inconsistent.”