

Professor Janette Tilley developed this anthology assignment for her course, “Music of the Classical Period” (MSH 332).

Final Project

The term project for MSH 332 is a detailed set of liner notes for a fictional 2-CD Anthology of Classical Music that you will design. The project is broken into 3 stages:

1. Critique of Liner Notes

Value: 5%

Due: March 15

Length: 2 pages

Details:

Attached to this assignment page are files containing several sample liner notes. Select two and write a 2-page critique of them. Your critique may compare and contrast the two selections, or you may simply consider each individually. Your critique should consider the liner notes from several perspectives, including, but not limited to, intended audience, sources and citations, musical detail, historical information, accuracy, and precision of information. Think about how effective the notes are, what kind of information is included, and what is not included. Are you left with many questions after reading the notes? Your critique should be written in complete sentences and paragraphs.

2. Project Proposal

Value: 10%

Due: April 10

Length: 2 pages (minimum)

Details:

You have been asked by a major record label to construct a 2-CD anthology of music from the Classical period. You are free to select any music for your anthology, but it should be unified by some common theme—city, composer, instrument, theme, ensemble, or genre for example. Write a persuasive 2-page letter (minimum) to your editor outlining your proposed CD collection. Give a summary argument for making your recording available to the public. You should describe the theme of your proposed recording and give justification for it, that is, describe the original nature of your collection and the need for such a recording. (You’ll have to do some research here to find out what has and has not been done). Name the pieces that you will include on your CDs and give justification for including them. Remember that CDs generally hold 60 to 70 minutes of music; the total playing time of your CDs will be 120-140 minutes.

Your proposal will be accepted (letter grades A & B), accepted with revisions (letter grade C), or rejected (letter grade D & F). Comments you receive on your proposal should be taken into account when you write your final project.

3. Final Project

Value: 15%

Due: May 10

Length: 6-8 pages

Details:

A major record label has accepted your CD anthology. Write liner notes for the discs appropriate for a scholarly, musical audience. In order to write informative liner notes for the pieces you have selected, you will need to be very familiar with the music—listen carefully and often to select elements of which the listener should be aware. You should put the pieces in their historical context by including background information as appropriate for your collection. For example, if you are making a collection of clarinet music, you will need to describe the Classical clarinet and its history in the period. Information about the composers should also be included. Any research you do should be included in a bibliography at the end of your notes, and if you use direct quotations, use a recognized citation style such as *Chicago* or *MLA*. If you are writing about vocal music, include texts and translations, giving credit to translators where appropriate. Texts and translations do not count toward the page total.

Your notes should be typed in a legible 12-point font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins. Include a title page with your name and the title of your CD anthology.