HOW TO WRITE THE PROGRAM LISTS AND PROGRAM NOTES FOR CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERTS

By Piret Väinmaa (PhD)
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A printed concert program informs the audience of what they are going to hear. It includes information on performers, composers and works and it will also be a historical document of a concert. In case of the performances of vocal music, a concert program should include texts that are sung, with the translations as appropriate. Both the authors of the original texts and the sources of any translations that you use must be identified so that they may be properly credited in the program.

A. PROGRAM LISTS

This is what you need to know:
1. What is the event about / the name of the event: a concert, a recital, etc
2. When (time and date)
3. Where (the venue with an address)
4. Who is playing / singing
5. What instrument
6. What composer/composers
7. What pieces

Example 1: Recital of piano music

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is the event about</th>
<th>Piano recital</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>When (time and date)</td>
<td>Wed 23rd of April 2019 at 18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where (the venue with the address)</td>
<td>In the Holy Ghost Church, Vienna, Wolfgangstrasse 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who is playing / singing</td>
<td>Jane Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What instrument</td>
<td>(piano)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What composer/composers</td>
<td>Ludwig van Beethoven, Maurice Ravel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What pieces</td>
<td>Sonata for piano C Major op 53 (&quot;Waldstein&quot;) (1805), La Valse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The trickiest part is to write the title of the piece correctly and with full information about the work.

If a title is based on the works genre, use the following form:

| Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) - Sonata No 21 C Major op 53 („Waldstein”) (1805) |

1. Composers' name should be correctly spelled, and with birth and death dates in parentheses (1770-1827)
2. Number of the Sonata No 21
3. Key of the work (C Major)
4. Opus number (op 53) is added for identifying the works. Opus numbers are used to catalog the works of the classical music composers.
5. Additional title or nickname of the work is added in quotes and parentheses („Waldstein”).
6. The year of creation (1805) is added in parentheses after the title of the work.
7. If you are performing a piece with separate movements, please write the movements in the program list. Movement titles in are italicized:

Allegro con brio
Introduzione. Adagio molto
Rondo. Allegretto moderato – Prestissimo

If the title is unique and given in original language, use Italic:

Maurice Ravel (1875 -1937) - La Valse (1920)

The information on the program list should look like this:

PIANO RECITAL
Wed 23rd of April 2019 at 18.00
In the Holy Ghost Church, Vienna, Wolfgangstrasse 31

Jane Johnson (piano)

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) - Sonata no 21 C Major op 53 („Waldstein”) (1805)

Allegro con brio
Introduzione. Adagio molto
Rondo. Allegretto moderato – Prestissimo

Maurice Ravel (1875 -1937) - La Valse (1920)
Example 2: Song recital

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. What is the event about</th>
<th>Song recital</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. When (time and date)</td>
<td>Sun 1st of June 2019 at 18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Where (the venue with the address)</td>
<td>In the Holy Ghost Church, Vienna, Wolfgangstrasse 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Who is playing / singing</td>
<td>Matthew Mason, Jane Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. What instrument / voice</td>
<td>(baritone), (Piano)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. What composer/composers</td>
<td>Franz Schubert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. What pieces</td>
<td>Die schöne Müllerin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In case of vocal music, like lied, art song and choral works, please write all the names of the separate songs in the program list. On a separate page, please include the original texts of the songs and their translations. Don’t forget to add the author of the texts and authors of the translations you use!

The information on the program list should look like this:

SONG RECITAL
Sun 1st of June 2019 at 18.00
In the Holy Ghost Church, Vienna, Wolfgangstrasse 31

Franz Schubert (1797-1828) - Die schöne Müllerin op. 25, D 795

1. Das Wandern
2. Wohin?
3. Halt!
4. Danksagung an den Bach
5. Am Feierabend
6. Der Neugierige
7. Ungeduld
8. Morgengruss
9. Des Müllers Blumen
10. Tränenregen
11. Mein!
12. Pause
13. Mit dem grünen Lautenbande
14. Der Jäger
15. Eifersucht und Stolz
16. Die liebe Farbe
17. Die böse Farbe
18. Trockne Blumen
19. Der Müller und der Bach
20. Des Baches Wiegenlied

Matthew Mason, baritone
Jane Johnson, piano
Franz Schubert (1797-1828) - Die Schöne Müllerin, op. 25, D 795

Text by Wilhelm Müller (1794–1827), translation by Celia Sgroi

1. Das Wandern

Das Wandern ist des Müllers Lust,
Das Wandern!
Das muß ein schlechter Müller sein,
Dem niemals fiel das Wandern ein,
Das Wandern.
Vom Wasser haben wir's gelernt,
Vom Wasser!
Das hat nicht Rast bei Tag und Nacht,
Ist stets auf Wanderschaft bedacht,
Das Wasser.
Das seh'n wir auch den Rädern ab,
Den Rädern!
Die gar nicht gerne stille stehn,
Die sich mein Tag nicht müde drehn,
Die Räder.
Die Steine selbst, so schwer sie sind,
Die Steine!
Sie tanzen mit den muntern Reihn
Und wollen gar noch schneller sein,
Die Steine.
O Wandern, Wandern, meine Lust,
O Wandern!
Herr Meister und Frau Meisterin,
Laßt mich in Frieden weiterziehn
Und wandern.

2. Wohin?

etc.


NB! For presenting texts next to on another, activate the texts you want to present and use the 'page layout' - 'columns' in MS Word format.
B. PROGRAM NOTES

Program notes engagingly describe the works being performed and the histories and personalities behind the music. They give your audience information on the composer(s), pieces, context, expectations and interpretation.

Program notes may be organised in separate sections:

a) A brief introduction to the composer
b) Information about the historical context of the pieces the audience is about to hear
c) Descriptions of the works
d) Information about the performers
e) Other – e.g. expectations or history of the interpretation fo the particular piece, interesting facts on the instruments, a brief history of the venue etc.

The most important part of the program notes is the information about composers and works to be performed. Some basic questions you might want to answer, include:

a) Where was the composer born (where did he/she die)?
b) What is the composer best known for? What is his/her most significant contribution to the music history?
c) When was the piece written? What else was going in the composers’ life?
d) Did the composer write any similar works / works in the same genre or form?

Further details on the works:

a) Titles of the movements of the pieces
b) Structure or form of the pieces
c) Explanation of any possible terminology/jargon that the average listener would not know
d) Anything you would like the listener to listen or pay attention to during the performance

Citations:

If you use any text written not by yourself, please cite your sources.
APPENDIX 1:

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Information of classical composers and their works:

Oxford Music Online

Translations of the Lieder /art songs:

LiederNet Archive
www.gopera.com

Examples of program notes:

Note: Liner notes for recordings give a good description of the work. Scores may also have a brief description of the work included in the front of the score. Best examples can be found online:

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

NY Philharmonics (Click on Concerts and tickets/calendar/event details. Scroll down and download the pdf-file of program notes.)

Kronos Quartet

www.earsense.org (a chamber music database that includes program notes for selected works. Search by the composer or by the work. Example: program notes on Robert Schumann Piano Quintet in E-flat major, Op. 44)

APPENDIX 2:

ONLINE SOURCES FOR WRITING PROGRAM LISTS AND PROGRAM NOTES USED IN THIS ARTICLE:

http://libguides.richmond.edu/c.php?g=42252&p=267404
https://lib.guides.umd.edu/c.php?g=326879&p=2194305
http://uark.libguides.com/c.php?g=78944&p=505485

APPENDIX 3:

EXAMPLE OF A POSTER FOR A PIANO RECITAL (see next page):
PIANO RECITAL

Wed 23rd of April 2019 at 18.00
In the Holy Ghost Church, Vienna, Wolfgangstrasse 31

Jane Johnson (piano)

Program:

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)
Sonata no 21 C Major op 53 ("Waldstein") (1805)

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

La Valse (1920)

Free entrance