

### **Post-Recital Self-Evaluation**

Self-critiques, though difficult, are an excellent way for musicians to recognize achievement and map out future goals. My senior thesis-recital proved to be an enjoyable experience, fueled by emotion and excitement. After any performance, I typically give myself a week or two to step away and appreciate the joy that comes after successfully presenting and sharing music with others. After listening back to the recordings, I have reached several conclusions.

In comparison to my recital one year ago, I have greatly improved. Overall, I was pleased with this project because I feel it was an accurate representation of my current abilities. Although there are many small specifics and nuances that could have been further perfected, the performance sounded well-prepared.

Using the recital as a vehicle for my honors thesis gave direction, shape and character to the recital. Researching, selecting, and arranging repertoire within the scope of my thesis allowed my personal style to emerge. The thesis work itself even inspired me to create and include my own composition. I can confidently say that my thesis recital was a unique representation of me as a pianist and musician.

Despite the many positives, there is always room for improvement. My improvisation could use more harmonic sophistication and control. In addition, I hope to grow in musical maturity, i.e. saying less with more. There were many points in the recital where nervous playing habits crept in, especially moments where space, breath, and interaction with the band would have been far more tasteful. Though I am proud of the confidence and competency that

was displayed, I will continuously strive to elevate myself to higher levels of conscientious piano playing.

In conclusion, I am pleased with the overall presentation and performance. I accurately represented my abilities as a person and musician. I gained knowledge, experience, and personal insight because of my thesis and the creative process to complete it. I am proud of the result of my work, and I will use this milestone as motivation to become a better musician and person.