

Student Name

Ensemble Name

Date

Live Performance Critique

I attended The United States Army Field Band performance at River Hill High School on December 16th. Their concert, Sound the Bells, featured the Concert Band and Soldier's Chorus. Though the concert included many pieces, I selected four songs to critique. Two a capella songs, *Away in a Manger* and *White Christmas* were presented by the Soldier's Chorus, *Dreideidele* was a joint effort, and the Concert Band performed *Trokia* without vocals.

I would give The United States Army Field Band a I, superior on the state adjudication scale, because throughout the entire concert the group performed spectacularly; there were no noticeable intonation issues and the group easily expressed each piece's mood to the audience. In *Trokia*, I noted the skill with which the group played the quick staccato melody, especially their articulation, which was consistent between musicians. *Away in a Manger* was equally impressive because of the chorus' excellent blend and their good diction. I especially liked the basses, whose harmonies supported the melody without overpowering it. The chorus' balance was fantastic in general. The band reentered to play *Dreideidele*, with the chorus, and I was impressed with both groups' accelerandos, which were very well executed. *White Christmas*, showcased the chorus' tone, which was outstanding. Every component of each chord was equally represented, and the chorus as a whole changed both dynamic and tempo seamlessly.

Based on my own experiences, I would give both the Concert Band and Soldier's Chorus

a 1, for their technically outstanding performance and for the energy they brought to the stage. A clarinet soloist in *Dreidreidele* exemplified the passion demonstrated by the entire group. He played with exaggerated, melodramatic movements, eliciting giggles from the audience, and when he cued the band they launched into an upbeat, exciting melody. As a whole, the United States Army Field band was extremely enthusiastic and talented.

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