

Lesson Observation Guide

Observation # _____ Student _____ Classification _____ Date _____

Teacher _____

Lessons may include the following areas:

Etudes or Technical Studies/Methods:

Orchestral Excerpts:

Repertoire:

Consider the following in your observation:

How does the teacher choose to structure/order the lesson?

- ☐ Similar to daily practice routine (long tones/technical exercises/excerpts/etudes/repertoire)
- ☐ The student presents issues to be addressed
- ☐ Concentration is on performance in preparation for upcoming event or events
- ☐ Other/Notes _____

Consider the following regarding how the teacher tends to structure the lesson:

- ☐ Maturity of student (Fr., Soph., Jr., Sr., MM, DMA)
- ☐ Proficiency level of student
- ☐ Concentration skills of student
- ☐ Performance goals
- ☐ Other/Notes _____

Which issue or issues does the teacher choose to focus on in the lesson?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rhythm | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Facility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Articulation | <input type="checkbox"/> Intonation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tone Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Vibrato |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dynamics | <input type="checkbox"/> Style/Musicianship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sight Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> Transposition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Memory Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Breathing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other/Notes _____ | |

Was the student able to hear and verbally express the same issues?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If more than one issue is addressed, how does the teacher progress from one to the other?

What methodical approaches were used to address technical issues and were they effective?

- ☐ Practice rhythms
- ☐ Repetition with metronome from “foundation” tempo
- ☐ “I play, you play” or modeling
- ☐ Smart Music practice loops
- ☐ Variation in articulation (all slurred/all tongued)
- ☐ Other/Notes _____

How were interpretive suggestions presented?

- ☐ Analogically
- ☐ Analytically
- ☐ Through demonstration/modeling
- ☐ Other/Notes _____

Was the student responsive to the interpretive suggestions?

- ☐ Yes (analogically, analytically, modeling, other _____)
- ☐ No (analogically, analytically, modeling, other _____)

Which references and/or resources were used if any?

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Metronome | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuner | <input type="checkbox"/> Audio recordings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Smart Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Audio recorder | <input type="checkbox"/> Video recorder |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ear cups | <input type="checkbox"/> Straws | <input type="checkbox"/> Mirror |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Windmills | <input type="checkbox"/> Breathing bags or tubes | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spacers | <input type="checkbox"/> Articles or journals | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dictionaries | <input type="checkbox"/> Internet | |

Was the form or compositional structure of the repertoire discussed? If so, in what way?

- ☐ Form (Sonata Form/Binary/Ternary/Rondo/Theme and Variation/etc.)
- ☐ Phrase Structure and Cadences (Period/Double Period/Perfect Authentic/etc.)
- ☐ Harmonic Content (traditional/atonal/impressionistic/polytonal/etc.)
- ☐ Scales represented in the work (major/minor/whole tone/octatonic/pentatonic/chrom./etc.)
- ☐ Thematic development
- ☐ Other _____

What qualities did you witness in the teacher today?

- | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge of subject matter | <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to communicate | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to motivate | <input type="checkbox"/> Open mindedness | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patience | <input type="checkbox"/> Flexibility | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization | <input type="checkbox"/> Sense of humor | |

What qualities did you witness in the student today?

- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patience | <input type="checkbox"/> Open mindedness | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attentiveness | <input type="checkbox"/> Willingness to experiment | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization | <input type="checkbox"/> Accountability | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Responsibility | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-reliance | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Respectfulness | <input type="checkbox"/> Sufficient Preparation | |

What was the atmosphere of the lesson?

- ☐ Positive
- ☐ Appropriately negative

Did you hear improvement in the student? Explain.

What can you take from this lesson observation and apply to your own playing, practicing and/or teaching?

Comments: