Instrumental/Orchestral/Choral Music Questions to Consider

Performance (Soloist)
1. Does the soloist work well with the group?
2. Was the choice of soloist appropriate to the musical selection?

Performance (Corps)
1. Does the group play/sing well at the level required by the selections?
2. Does the group play/sing in tune?
3. Does the conductor demonstrate an understanding of the music and is he/she able to communicate this understanding to the group?
4. Does the group appear to be well-rehearsed and comfortable with the music?

Instrumental/Choral Sound
1. Is the sound well balanced among the "voices" in the group (high, middle, low tones)?
2. Is the level of playing well balanced within the group (e.g. are the brass sections notably better than the strings)?

Interpretation
1. Was there any sense of interpretation in the performance, or were the musicians/singers just playing/singing the notes?
2. Does the conductor demonstrate an understanding of the music and is he/she able to communicate this understanding to the group?

Costumes
1. Did the clothes distract from the event? Is the dress appropriate for the performance? (Examples might be ethnic clothing for ethnic music performances or "interesting" (but not outrageous) for fusion music.)

Overall Production
1. Do the artists work together to interpret, integrate and illuminate the total work?
2. Did the production justify the time expended on it by both the artists involved and by the members of the audience?
3. Was there an element of freshness or vitality that made this a memorable experience?
4. Did the production:
   a. Create a stimulating diversion for you?
   b. Offer you an intellectual or emotional experience?
   c. Lead you into a face-to-face encounter with reality?
   d. Bring you into an honest confrontation with yourself or your beliefs?
   e. Entertain you?

Choice of Material
1. For instrumental music/chorus: consider if the program included some music that is comfortable for the audience and some that challenges them.