

Instructional Related Activities
Report Form

SPONSOR	DEPARTMENT
Steven Marsh	Performing Arts

ACTIVITY TITLE	DATE OF ACTIVITY
Modul8 Sax Quartet Concert	3/28/2013

PLEASE EXPLAIN (1) DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY; (2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S); AND (3) WHAT YOU LEARNED FROM THE PROCESS.

1. THE MODUL8 SAX QUARTET PERFORMED A MIX OF JAZZ, CLASSICAL, LATIN, AND POP MUSIC FOR MANY CSUCI STUDENTS ON 3/28/2013. THE MUSICIANS ALSO ANSWERED STUDENTS' QUESTIONS, AND TOLD THE STUDENTS ABOUT EACH PIECE OF MUSIC THAT WAS PERFORMED.

2. MODUL8 PLAYED THREE CONCERTS ON 3/28/2013. WE PERFORMED FOR PAMU 333 AND PAMU 100 AT 9AM. THEN ANOTHER PERFORMANCE WAS PRESENTED FOR PAMU 330 AT 3PM. THEN ANOTHER SET OF MUSIC WAS PERFORMED AT 4:30 FOR THE PAMU/HIST 337 CLASS. STUDENTS AND FACULTY FROM OTHER CLASSES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS ALSO DROPPED IN FOR THESE CONCERTS. VERY LITTLE MUSICAL REPERTOIRE WAS REPEATED DURING THE DAY, SO EACH CONCERT WAS UNIQUE. THE MUSIC RELATED TO THESE COURSES BECAUSE THE PERFORMANCES INCLUDED THE MANY STYLES OF MUSIC THAT THESE CLASSES HAVE BEEN STUDYING DURING THE SEMESTER. PLEASE READ THE ATTACHED STUDENTS COMMENTS (MANY!). THE STUDENTS UNIVERSALLY FEEL THAT THESE CONCERTS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE HISTORY OF THE MUSIC, AND THE PERFORMANCE METHODS OF PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANS.

3. I LEARNED THAT THE STUDENTS APPRECIATED A VARIETY OF MUSICAL STYLES DURING THE PRESENTATIONS. BY INCLUDING SOME POP MUSIC SELECTIONS THAT THE STUDENTS KNOW, WE CAN ALSO GET THEM TO PAY ATTENTION AND APPRECIATE THE CLASSICAL AND JAZZ MUSIC SELECTIONS THAT THEY ARE LESS FAMILIAR WITH. JUDGING FROM THE STUDENTS' WRITTEN COMMENTS, THIS CONCERT WAS EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL.

Modul8 Sax Quartet – 3/28/2013 - I.R.A. Concerts
Compilation of Student comments

(Modul8 performed at three different class times on this day.)

The jazz concert featuring four saxophone musicians as a quartet was a new and interesting experience. Though many people have seen and heard jazz bands, both large and small, it was unique to see a saxophone quartet in person. In contrast to other bands that featured rhythm section instruments such as the bass, drums and the guitar, it is very new to see four saxophones work together, each with different sounds, to make the music clear, harmonious, and entertaining. Each saxophone player was aware of the others' roles and actions, and they all played very professionally in knowing the music and what each song and its changes entailed.

Almost as interesting as watching the four musicians play, was the information they shared about themselves and their past experiences while playing various events. As the one musician shared about his past jobs and experiences, the audience was able to get a look at what the life of an on-tour musician really is like. Instead of the glamour that is attributed to musician's lives in Hollywood, it seems that going on tour is difficult, with cramped living spaces and primarily the separation from family for months at a time. Also, the idea of corporate bands as still prominent in today's society was an interesting in which I failed to recognize that corporations still hire big bands for entertainment for special occasions.

The musicians also highlighted the need for dedication and practice. The four musicians explained how they practice and learn the songs on their own time and then come together to practice in order to work on harmony and transition. They also emphasized that in today's music industry it is a must to be able to follow directions and to thoroughly know what you are playing which requires a lot of personal dedication and time to learn songs and arrangements.

Overall, the saxophone quartet was an exciting and entertaining experience in contrast to the more traditional small jazz bands that have been featured.

Over all, this was the best thing I have ever heard at nine in the morning, and I hope that the University will continue to provide its students with so many wonderful experiences during their four short years here. I know that for me activities such as these will be some of the fondest memories that will keep me smiling whenever I think of my time here at Channel Islands.

The vibe that was given off by the sax quartet was a jazzy, yet structured style of music. The quartet members seemed to be extremely comfortable playing with the other members, and they seemed to stay in touch with the melodies of all songs. Even during the small amount of improvisation that was performed, the musicians understood the melody and the timing of the songs very well.

First off, I must say that Professor Marsh is an incredibly talented sax player. The show was absolutely awesome. Now that I got that out of the way, the sax quartet was

completely new to me. I was very impressed. The eight songs played covered a wide spectrum of musical styles from different eras.

The first song played was “The Cascades,” by Scott Joplin. It was a rag-time piece originally written for piano. It was a fun song with a syncopated beat and diatonic sound. The second song was a 1970’s Motown song by the Jackson Five called, “ABC.” It is a classic that is always fun to hear, and as soon as I heard it, my feet started tapping to the rhythm. A song that just makes you smile.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the sax quartet that was put on for the students. It actually opened up my mind to listening to classical music more. I definitely learned to appreciate the classical and early era music more because of the sax quartet performance.

I think the infamous Neil Young said it all in four little words “live music is better.” After almost a full semester of information about the variety of music, I can’t think of a better way of retaining the knowledge, then by watching it live. Quite frankly, I find it mind boggling that a committee would need any kind feedback to have live concerts in a music class. I think it’s very important too watch live music, especially in a class such as ours. I can honestly say I’ve taken a great amount of knowledge from our required class concerts. Live music has a special place in my heart, and takes my mind various places. Music has so much to offer in general, the feeling of listening to something or someone up close and personal is incredible.

Lets talk about the killer saxophone quartet, The Modul8. Although, I’m sure waking up super early and playing a concert isn’t anyone’s preference, you could tell from the first song that these saxophone players were passionate about playing their specific sax. I also must say it was a great start to my long Thursday morning.

One of the many things I loved about The Modul8 was their vast choice of variety with the music they performed. Thank you so much for your hard work and dedication to music.

Last week we had a chance to listen to a saxophone quartet. I found this concert very interesting because I has never seen all the different kinds if saxophones playing together. It was interesting to see the dynamic of each saxophone playing off of each other; I could tell that each performer really had to listen to each other and work together to produce pleasant sounding music.

The group began right away with a song by Ladd McIntosh. The song was very modern in the way it used dissonance throughout the piece. I thought it was very interesting to hear the deep range from the baritone saxophone, and there was a slower part in the song where I felt the baritone saxophone was very expressive. I also noticed that the soprano saxophone looked pretty different from the other saxophones and almost looked like a clarinet. The next song was “Pan-Am Rag” from Tom Turpin. His song was very upbeat and definitely had that “St. Louis” feel to it. It was a quick song and even sounded like it would be played at Disneyland.

The performers then took a break to explain what goes on behind the scenes of a concert like this. Ahead of time, all the musicians decide what songs they will practice, and on their own they learn the music to the songs. Later on, they all come together to practice the music together. Musicians must work out their timing within the music as well as the balance of the music. When multiple musicians come together they must also practice blending all the different instruments together to produce the desired sound. Finally, the musicians all have different interpretations of each piece; therefore, each musician must work out how loud or soft to play depending on the other musicians.

Overall, I found this concert to be really nice because I really got to watch the musicians interact with each other through music. Because each musician was playing a saxophone, they truly had to listen to one another and work off of each other to complete the song. The performers were so good that at times, it did not even sound like they were all playing the saxophone. Each performer had a different interpretation and style of playing, so it never got boring.

To no surprise, this ensemble of saxophone players performed at the highest level. This concert felt very intimate, and the closeness of the performers was very hard to miss.

The audience could tell right away that these players had known each other and have played together before, each putting a piece of themselves in every note that was played. It was a very good concert, and I'm looking forward to seeing them once more in the future.

This live concert put on by Module 8 was an awesome depiction of music in the jazz form. The concert was played by four highly skilled saxophonists.

One of the most important aspects for Module 8, being that there were all horn instruments, is making sure that everyone synchronizes together. If they weren't synchronized then the sound would have been very abstract. The synchronization allows for them to make groovy sounds with the way they harmonize together. As the members of the band mentioned, the only way they were able to harmonize so well was because of all the hours of practice that they put in beforehand. If one of them was to play a little out of rhythm, then it would be easily detected. Module 8 noted that it has taken them years of practice to get to the stage that they are at today. This shows me the dedication that each musician has put into their music and the benefits from doing this showed in the live performance.

Various songs played throughout the concert illuminated the different ranges and styles that could be played with the saxophone instrument. I think this concert has once again opened my music ears to another style of live music, ranges of the saxophone, different types of saxophones, and different styles, with these musicians exhaling jazz from their saxophones.

The last song performed for the class was written by Professor Marsh during his studies as an undergraduate in Tempe Arizona. The song is titled “A Tempo in Tempe” and uses the old tune which was newly modulated to better fit the style and characteristics of the saxophone quartet. It uses repeated phrases, sudden pauses, and motive development.

My favorite of the sax quartet songs was the Mozart string quartet music, which kept me interested and on the edge of my seat, while letting my thoughts flow.

I love how all these songs let us hear various Jazz and classical combinations, Bach and Mozart pieces and other developments. It was a true honor and experience to see how these songs came together, and to listen to all the experiences each player has seen.

When I learned we were going to listen to a saxophone quartet perform in class, I wasn't sure how the music was going to sound. Even though I appreciate all instruments and their musical timbre along with diversity, I hadn't been presented much music played on a saxophone. I was excited to attend this performance and expand my musical knowledge and listening experience.

One of the performances was Mozart's string quartet number 17 in B flat major. I was impressed to hear that the saxophones really could emulate violins and possess a classical sound. This song was one of the more difficult pieces that was performed and included staccato notes, dissonance in some areas, and breath control was very important. I enjoyed the staccato notes because they sounded like birds chirping. I also liked that each player had a chance to shine and played little solos throughout the piece.

The next song was an original piece written by the soprano saxophone player, David. He was trying to portray a mental image of the traffic of a large city, and a single bicyclist meandering through the cars and experiencing all the noise of a city. The song began with the musicians playing notes in a belting way that sounded like car horns, and this immediately gave me the feeling that I was in a busy and crowded place. It had a playful demeanor, but also had some dissonance when the car horns were imitated. The composition was impressive because it was able to paint a clear picture of all the traffic sounds you would hear in a large city and a single bicyclist riding around in a place full of action.

The last song that was played was an original composition written by Professor Marsh. The baritone saxophone began playing at the beginning and set the mood of how the piece would continue. It definitely had a jazz sound, which made me feel relaxed. I could image this song being played in a movie or in a nice lounge because it had an elegant feel to it. There was crescendo throughout adding dramatization and kept my interest. I enjoyed the little solos that were splashed to each player. It gave each musician a chance to be heard and noticed.

Overall, I really enjoyed the performance. I liked the vibe from every musician because they were willing to answer our questions with maximum effort. They wanted to teach us about their instrument and inform us about the music they were playing. It was impressive how the musicians played together and blended so well since they don't perform together often. It proved that practice and love for the music makes a fun-filled show. The performance had an intimate feeling, and it helped me connect more with the music. It was a perfect way for us to listen to some live music that was relevant to what we're learning in class.

We fortunate enough to enjoy a saxophone quartet concert. The saxophone quartet was called Modul8 and included our professor Marsh and three of his musical colleagues.

One song that was performed was again arranged from one of the members from the quartet. One song they performed was The Beach Boys' "God Only Knows". This is one of my favorite Beach Boys songs, so I was very excited to hear it.

The musicians also played Bach's "Fugue in G Minor". This fugue seemed to be very complicated; however was much more enjoyable than the pipe organ fugue that we heard earlier in class. This fugue seemed to be more enjoyable and less disjointed than the fugue we heard in class. This fugue started with one saxophone playing the subject, and then one by one each saxophone would enter from the beginning of the subject.

The concert ended with Professor's original song that he had written in his college days. The song was written at ASU in Tempe, Arizona and was called "A Tempo in Tempe". This song was originally written for only one saxophone, so our teacher eventually re-orchestrated it for a saxophone quartet. This song seemed to have a call and response with the other saxophones and also seemed to have qualities of a fugue in some aspects of the song. This song was also upbeat, happy, and also had a lot of flourishes. This song also had motive development since there were parts of the song that had bigger or thinner texture.

Therefore this concert was very interesting because we got to hear and learn more about the saxophone. We got to learn about four different types of saxophones and how each of the saxophones sounds different. We also got to hear how the saxophone could play both newer and older pieces of music. Finally, we had the opportunity to hear original tunes that we may have never had to chance to hear.

At the end of the performance Modul8 played a rock anthem with the song "Frankenstein". I have to say this was my favorite song out of the whole concert. I have heard the original and hearing it in the all saxophone quartet band was interesting to hear. It is a pretty popular song and right when they went to the main riff, I recognized it. My favorite parts were when they played slow and the song gradually rose in loudness right into the main riff. This song was awesome because

Module 8 got to incorporate rock and jazz together. This song also deviated from the rest of their songs and allowed them to get up and show their energetic side.

All in all, I enjoyed the concert because I got to see a different type of live concert where there were only horn instruments. I think this concert was once again opened my music ears to another style of live music, ranges of the saxophone, different types of saxophones, and different styles of this instrument with these musicians exhaling jazz from their saxophones.

Even after being in the PAMU 333 course for three months I have a long way to go when it comes to actually knowing how to appreciate music to its fullest. Before taking this course I had no idea that there was more than one version of a saxophone or flute, and other instruments. I lack the refinement of music appreciation and understanding that some of my peers have. Even so I know what I like and learn to appreciate what I hear, and what I heard in our second in class concert was incredible.

The saxophone performers for this small but still amazing concert were David Crozier (Soprano Sax), Scott Shiever (Tenor Sax), Jeff Dellisant (Baritone Sax), and our very own Professor Marsh (Alto Sax). They were very comfortable and energetic for having to perform at nine in the morning to a couple of still sleep walking students, (myself included). So to wake some of us up the first song they played was a very energetic and lively tune, titled “I Want You Back”, arranged by Crozier himself. This was homage to the Jackson Five from the 1970s.

Andante et Scherzo was the second song, composed by Eugene Bozza a French composer. The song started off at a slow walking tempo, with the tenor sax acting as a cello, followed by the soprano sax then finally simultaneously joined by the baritone and alto saxophones. In the middle of the composition it is the Baritone sax that received a short solo, when it ended the other three saxophones joined in at a crescendo. The second part of this piece was livelier and faster than the first part, it gave me the sense of butterflies dancing to a flute. Though all the instruments were four different saxophones, I still cannot believe that.

“The Cascades” is a song composed and played by Scott Joplin back in 1900 was the fourth tune of the series. To my untrained ears it sounded a lot like a carnival ride tune, but it suddenly morphed into a lively cartoonish themed song. All throughout the song it went back and forth between carnival ride and cartoon sounds. It was an interesting song to hear always morphing between two imageries and going from loud to lively, soft and slow.

Song number five was a more classical piece, *Fugue in C minor*, composed by Johan Sebastian Bach. It was a Fugue with a five measure melody which consisted of constantly playing parts leaving very little room for breathing. For this song it was the Soprano Sax that started the piece, and stayed in the lead for the most part. Soprano was joined by the alto sax then slowly by both tenor and baritone saxophones. It was during this song that I closed my eyes and was pleasantly surprised to realize that if I had not just witnessed four saxophones playing, I would

have thought other different instruments had joined the ensemble. Apparently I had just witnessed firsthand just how flexible saxophones are.

The seventh song was one of Beethoven's more classical pieces, titled *String Quartet in G major/Opus 18 No. 2*. In this piece it was the baritone sax that set the tempo for the other three saxophones, and it started off at a lively and somewhat fast tempo. After the baritone sax, it was the soprano saxophone that took the lead with a stronger and smoother sound. I also happened to notice that professor Marsh would count his beats so as not lose his place while he was not playing. Beethoven's piece had many parts where it would go from a crescendo to a decrescendo, then back again. With the sounds this song produced it gave me the sense that more instruments were playing in the background, but that was not so. Towards the end of this piece a somewhat weird sound came from the Soprano and Alto saxophones, it was not unpleasant just strange to my ears. Over all this was one of my favorite pieces from the entire short concert.

By the end of the concert the saxophone quartet played for us one our more modern hits; "Forget You" by Celo Green. I have to say that this was another of my favorite parts of the whole experience especially when you heard all four players singing "why, why" it was very funny and entertaining.

Overall this was a very wonderful concert. I enjoyed this experience very much and I am thankful that I had the opportunity to hear a saxophone quartet live. My favorite song from this concert was the Fugue simply because it looked so hard to play and I could tell there had to be a great deal of talent to play something with that amount of intensity. I really enjoyed this concert and would love to see an encore.

Overall, this was a great concert to learn more about the saxophone and the many things that this instrument can do. I loved learning about each piece and how each saxophone plays a role in them. I thought that it was very interesting to know that most of the time the players have to transpose some of the notes for certain songs because a particular song was not written for a saxophone. It was also interesting to hear each saxophone by itself and listen to their highest and lowest notes that each of them can play. I now have a greater appreciation for this instrument and what it can do.

Modul8 El8s Music Students

It was another dull Thursday morning as I shuffled in to Malibu 120 at Cal State Channel Islands, breakfast in hand, and mind on the bed I begrudgingly left an hour earlier. But when I heard a baritone sax hit the first bass note and shimmy up the and down the bass line of my favorite Jackson 5 song, I knew it was going to be a good day. I was no longer thinking "I Want You Back" in regards to my mattress and