Music Literature Extra Credit Opportunity

The tasks involved with journal writing cover a wide range of skills that you will develop during the course of increased and concentrated listening. Entries must be prepared on a word processor. Each piece should be given at least two complete hearings. Choose a composer from the Classical Music/Composers section from letters A-H (Fall semester) or I-Z (Spring Semester).

All recordings will be drawn from the Naxos Music Library. On your web browser, navigate to the UMD Library page:

http://www.d.umn.edu/lib/

Click on Databases and then on Naxos Music Library. If you are off campus you may be asked to log in with your UMD username and password. Under Categories, click on Classical and then Composers to get to the desired alphabetical listings.

Journals: Each entry must be headed with your name, section number, the composer, and the catalog number and track number of the CD-stream you chose. Following that, the entry must contain the following information, using proper grammar, in under 200 words (150 minimum):

1. Paragraph One - A brief statement regarding who the composer is: provide the country of origin, dates the composer lived, and the musical period in which the composer was active (Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Modern, or Contemporary). State the name of the composition you have chosen to listen to and its genre (e.g. piano solo, choral, orchestral, string quartet, madrigal, etc.). If it is a multi-movement piece, you only need to discuss one movement.

2. Paragraph Two - Discuss what you liked most about the piece and if you thought you might want to listen to more of this composer’s music. In other words, evaluate the strengths of the composition based on the aesthetics of its style. You can speak to the composer’s use of instrumentation, form, texture, melody, or aesthetic perspective.

Grading: The journal entries are due the last week of regular classes in order to receive extra credit but can be handed in at any time before that. If you complete 10 entries, and they are deemed acceptable based on the guidelines above, your lowest test grade (other than mid-term or final) of the semester will be dropped from your final average.