

# Experiencing a Symphony

Have you ever experienced the performance of a world-class symphony? I don't mean listening to music through tiny white earbuds, or even your fancy home theater system. That would be listening to the music. I'm talking about experiencing it.

There is a major difference between listening to a recording of Mozart and experiencing it live at the symphony hall. The notes may be the same, but our awareness of the conductor and each of the members of the orchestra – and the distinct movements and sounds of various instruments – is completely lost when we only hear a recording of the sounds.

There's something about seeing the music created before our eyes that results in a sense of wonder and exhilaration. Rather than thinking of the music as a technically satisfying product, we experience it as a profoundly incredible work of art.

Last year, a man took his wife to the Pacific Symphony for a Christmas concert. Famous songs the couple had heard hundreds of times before came to life as they watched the 50-piece orchestra create the melodic sounds of *Silent Night* and *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*. They told friends it was amazing to pan across the stage and see each of these unique and gifted musicians, playing individual notes on their instruments that resulted in an incredible symphony of sounds that filled the concert hall.

When the orchestra did *Sleigh Ride* and got to the second verse where you hear the *Giddy up, giddy up let's go. Let's look at the show. We're riding in a wonderland of snow*, the husband paid attention to one musician in particular.

"I noticed the percussionist using two wooden blocks to make the clop, clop sound of horses running that you hear in the background of the song. I wouldn't have even noticed this guy hidden way in the back with his wooden blocks in hand, except that he was featured on the giant video screen in the hall as the camera zoomed in on him making his clop, clop sound. I had never realized how important this little additional sound in the background was to enhancing the rich texture of the melody and the lifelike experience of the song."

The percussionist was not in a prominent position. He didn't play the violin in the first chair right next to the conductor. He was tucked in the back, relegated to slapping two wooden blocks together. Yet, without him adding his unique sound to the mix, the music would have been incomplete.

(more)

Similarly, understanding how the God-given talents work melodically in the teams of Life Care and Century Park takes more than just listening to the harmony the associates make when tuned in to their gifts. It takes seeing each associate as an essential individual instrument, vital to the whole mission.

And in the spiritual realm, it takes an appreciation for the work of the Great Conductor, the Holy Spirit, who gifts and guides each individual and the team according to His will and His purpose. The Apostle Paul talked of the importance of the contributions of each person on a team or in an organization:

*For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as He chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body (1 Corinthians 12:14-20 ESV).*

The lesson for us – and the impact on the people we serve – is obvious.

– Beecher Hunter

