

The Missing Piccolo

Sir Michael Costa, the celebrated conductor, was holding a rehearsal. As the mighty chorus rang out, accompanied by scores of instruments, the piccolo player – a little, pint-sized flute – thinking perhaps that his contribution would not be missed amid so much music, stopped playing.

Suddenly, the great leader stopped and cried out, “Where is the piccolo?”

The sound of that one small instrument was necessary to the harmony, and the Master Conductor missed it when it dropped out.

The point?

To the conductor, there are no insignificant instruments in an orchestra. Sometimes, the smallest and seemingly least important one can make the greatest contribution. And even if it doesn't seem to make that big a difference to the audience at large, the conductor knows it right away.

In the organizations of Life Care and Century Park, the players and their instruments – gifts God has given them – are diverse: different sizes, different shapes, different notes, different roles to play. But like the piccolo player in Sir Michael's orchestra, we often in our own sovereignty decide that our contribution is not significant. Our contribution couldn't possibly make a difference.



And so, we quit playing. Stop doing that which we've been given to do. We drop out.

But the Master Conductor of life and eternity immediately notices. From our perspective, our contribution may be small, but from His, it is crucial. There are no insignificant instruments in the work we are called to do in Life Care and Century Park. After all, He created us for a purpose.

I may be sending a message today to some piccolo players who have dropped out of the orchestra – or are considering it – for whatever reasons: pain, exhaustion, insecurity, criticism, laziness, misbehavior. You may be convinced that your contribution doesn't mean a hill of beans in the bigger scheme of things. Don't bury your talent in the ground.

For all piccolos who won't play, or at least aren't playing your best, the Bible has something to say: *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace* (1 Peter 4:10 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter