

## God's Orchestra

On my morning walk today I was listening to a soundtrack of the movie Lincoln. I found myself acutely aware of how each of the instruments complimented one another to tell the story of Abraham Lincoln. Some of the musical sounds were soft, perhaps just a piano playing. Other times you heard the full orchestra, in all its splendor. Wouldn't it be uplifting to stand next to the conductor's platform, surrounded by a massive orchestra, to fully appreciate each section's contribution to the music?



Unless you play an instrument you may not be fully aware of how it all fits together. As a former trumpet player I am tuned into the sweet soprano sound of the trumpet section. The more I listen, however, I have come to appreciate the deep, melodic, solid sounds of the lower brass (French horns, trombones, baritones and tubas). They may not always be spectacular, but they create the foundation for the musical selection.

Each of the four sections of the orchestra has its unique contribution. The smoothness often comes from the string section, with a combination of violin, viola, cello and string bass. Sometimes they carry the melody, while often they provide such a relaxing, rich sound.

The woodwind section (flutes, piccolo, bassoon, oboe and clarinet) actually play the highest and lowest notes in the orchestra. The entire orchestra tunes their instrument to the lead violinist, who is called the Concertmaster. And then there is the percussion section. It has the widest variety of instruments, including everything you hit, rattle or shake. The drums are the most recognizable, establishing the beat that drives the whole orchestra.

In some of the most enjoyable orchestral pieces different sections seem to be playing a different melody at the same time, adding depth. As each section plays their part it all works together to create beautiful music.

People of faith, working together for a common goal, are like a well-tuned orchestra. We look to our conductor – God -- for guidance and direction. We bring different skills and attributes, but when we blend our uniqueness with the uniqueness of others, we can produce beautiful results. God has written the music – His plan for our lives and how our part fits into the bigger picture.

Are you are like the trumpet player, with sweet, exciting music; or the drummer, who drives the tempo; or the tuba or bassoon, which is the foundation that others build on. Jesus Christ serves as the concertmaster, as everyone tunes their life to Him. Even though some instruments are, by nature, louder than others, each is equally important. So is every person. The big picture blends everyone's talents to serve God by serving others. Wouldn't you like to stand with God, the director for our lives, as the orchestra surrounds you with beautiful music? I would.

**Question:** What part do you play in serving others? What would be your greatest contribution to a team effort?

**Scripture:** *There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work (1 Corinthians 12:4-6).*

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father. We thank you, Lord, for the abilities you give us. Let us combine our abilities, in concert with others, to serve you by serving others. We look to you for direction. Amen.