

The Symphony of Humanity

Amal Raj Anilkumar

As I listened back to the new beat I was making, I realized that the piano, drum set, and guitar I had recorded sounded a little boring and one-dimensional. I mindlessly scrolled through the long list of sounds in my music software for a while, listening for inspiration. Suddenly, I heard something that caught my attention - a unique percussive sound made by an instrument called the “Djembe.” Intrigued, I researched the instrument and learned that it is from Mali, West Africa. I added the instrument into my beat, and when I played it back, I was entranced by how the contrasting sounds blended together so well.

I realized that putting diverse instruments together is much like people of different cultural backgrounds meeting each other. We all have our unique beliefs and personalities, but when we put our differences aside, we can come together in a beautiful harmony. Inclusion can bring diverse opportunities for innovation and productivity, because people often confidently contribute their ideas to the world when they feel that their viewpoints are valued. Inclusion can also bring new cultures and traditions together so that people can learn about and respect each others’ ways of life.

During the 1950s and 60s, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. worked to eliminate the prejudice and hatred that causes groups of people to disrespect and exclude other groups. He wanted to show the world that anyone of any background can play a key role in making the world a better place. Dr. King strived to create a future where every unique individual has a place in society, regardless of where they are from, what they believe, or the color of their skin.

However, we are still a long way from this future. Every day, people across the globe experience racism. This can cause hatred between groups of people, which can eventually turn into violence and war over time. There is hope for the future though: if kids learn to listen to one another and empathize with different points of view, they will slowly start to understand that we all have more in common than it seems on the surface. Once we realize this, we can all be included in the beautiful symphony of humanity.

After adding a few more instruments from all over the world, I felt my song was done. When I played it back once more, I heard how all the unique sounds came together to become a song that was greater than the sum of its parts. As I listened, I closed my eyes and envisioned a world where everyone belonged - a world just like the one Dr. King imagined, filled with kindness, hope, and love.