

Symphony or Concerto?

Read the performance review.

Then follow the directions in the Text Marking box.

Do you know the difference between a symphony and a concerto? An orchestra plays both musical forms, but only one form also requires a soloist. A concert I recently attended demonstrated each form.

The orchestra showcased two compositions played for the first time in the United States. The audience cheered the originality and excitement of each. Both composers, in attendance that evening, received well-earned applause.

The concert began with *Symphony No. 1 in C Minor* by R. Murray Schafer. To me, this rousing piece confirmed his claim that “one makes music to get out of this world.” Schafer’s work had three movements, each with its own unique feel and color. The entire orchestra played all three movements.

By contrast, Vincent Ho’s *The Shaman: Concerto for Percussion and Orchestra* was a lively dialogue between orchestra and soloist. Like the symphony, the concerto had three parts. And as in the symphony, the orchestra played, but the true star was Dame Evelyn Glennie, the gifted Scottish percussionist. Glennie performed extended solos on an army of instruments, including drums, chimes, bells, bowls, and bongos. She moved among them like a dancer—sometimes floating, other times making powerful gestures.

As in any concerto, the orchestra and soloist in *The Shaman* sometimes played together. Glennie’s dazzling performance made the piece unforgettable, transporting the audience with pure joy.



Percussionist Dame Evelyn Glennie

Text Marking

Compare and contrast the symphony and concerto as described in this review.

- Box at least three signal words or phrases.
- Circle two ways they are alike.
- Underline one way they are different.

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▶ Answer each question. Give evidence from the review.

1

Which of the following word can replace *movements* (paragraph 3) without changing the meaning of the sentence?

- A. plays
- B. parts
- C. activities
- D. dialogues

What in the text helped you answer? _____

2

For what audience do you think the author wrote this review?

- A. Dame Evelyn Glennie
- B. music scholars
- C. people who enjoy going to concerts
- D. people who know nothing about orchestra music

What in the text helped you answer? _____

3

Describe the author's opinion of the concert that evening.

4

Look back at your text markings and think about the ideas in the review. In your own words, summarize the similarities and the major difference between the symphony and the concerto the author reviewed.
