

Oliver Sacks' greatest legacy: Understanding those who are 'different'

**The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis.**

Oliver Sacks died August 30 at age 82. In the last months of his life, the famed writer and neurologist marked his final passage in a [series](#) of [candid](#) and touching articles detailing his relationship with [faith](#) and [death](#).

And in what seems like a perfect triangulation of his life's devotion to humanity, music, and beauty, his [last tweet](#) was an [expression of appreciation](#) for all three combined, a link to a video of one of the most stirring and divine flash mobs ever to have assembled, a street performance of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy." About the graceful, moving performance that begins with a single bass player and builds to a wall of symphonic and vocal sound, Sacks tweeted: "A beautiful way to perform one of the world's great musical treasures."

If you're reading this, you owe Sacks a debt of gratitude for his willingness to take time with people who were different, whose minds sometimes seemed out of reach, and his ability to make it possible for the rest of us to understand better. If you don't need that understanding now, you will someday—for you or for a loved one.

**Read full, original post:** [With The Death Of Oliver Sacks, Neurology Has Lost Its Heart](#)