

The Sound of Music Part – I (Evelyn Glennie)

Key points :-

- Evelyn Glennie was 8, when first time her hearing disability was noticed by her mother.
 - At the age of 11, her disability was discovered at school.
 - Wants to do career in Music, her teachers discouraged her.
 - Fortunately she met Ron Forbes, the percussionist, who identified her potential & supported in achieving her goal.
 - He trained Evelyn to sense the music through different parts of our body.
 - Suddenly she was excited to feel the vibrations in every part of her body.
 - Evelyn followed him like an obedient student and in the meantime she had learnt to open her body & mind to sounds and vibrations.
 - After this, she never looked back.
 - Evelyn joined the famous Royal Academy of Music, worked hard with strong determination. Suddenly she got to top.
 - In 1991, she bagged the Royal Philharmonic Society's prestigious "Soloist of the Year Award".
 - She toured round the world for her concerts with a very hectic schedule and became a kind of workaholic.
 - Apart from this, she gives free concerts in prison & hospitals.
 - Evelyn soon became shining super star & inspiration for not only the disabled ones but for all.
 - She achieved more than most people twice her age.
 - Evelyn has earned great name in Orchestra.
 - She has inspired those who are handicapped & made them believe that if Evelyn could do that, why not they.
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Evelyn Glennie is a multi – percussionist. She has attained mastery over almost a thousand musical instruments despite being hearing – impaired. She learnt to feel music through the body instead of hearing it through the ears.

When Evelyn was eleven years old, it was discovered that she had lost her hearing power due to nerve damage. The specialist advised that she wear hearing aids and be sent to a school for the deaf. On the contrary, Evelyn was determined to lead a normal life and follow her interest in music. Although she was discouraged by her teachers, her potential was noticed by master percussionist, Ron Forbes. He guided Evelyn to feel music some other way than to hear it through her ears. This worked well for Evelyn and she realized that she could sense different sounds through different parts of her body.

Once she had overcome this hurdle, Evelyn began her career in music. She got admission in the Royal Academy of Music, London and scored the highest marks in the history of the academy. Evelyn says that hard work and dedication towards her goal helped her achieve success. Evelyn gives solo performances and even gives free concerts for hospitals and schools. In the year 1991, she won the Royal Philharmonic Society's prestigious 'Soloist of the Year' Award. Evelyn's story is an inspiration for the differently abled who are motivated to fulfil their dreams like she did.

Answer the following questions :

1. How old was Evelyn when she went to the Royal Academy of Music?
2. When was her deafness first noticed? When was it confirmed?
3. Who helped her to continue with music? What did he do and say?
4. Name the various places and causes for which Evelyn performs.
5. How does Evelyn hear music?

SOUND OF MUSIC PART-II (Shehnai of Bismillah Khan)

The lesson is about Ustad Bismillah Khan. He was a renowned shehnai player in India. He is a legend because he did something which has historical significance. He played the shehnai on the day India got independence i.e 15th August 1947. At the Red Fort, before the Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru gave his speech. Before that Bismillah Khan played the shehnai in order to signify something auspicious. Something auspicious for the whole country was about to happen - India was about to get freedom. And so, on that occasion, Bismillah Khan played the shehnai and so, he is a legend.

Bismillah Khan made a valuable contribution to the world of music through the 'shehnai'. For this, he was honoured with India's highest civilian honour – the Bharat Ratna in 2001. He hailed from a family of musicians. He improvised many new ragas with the shehnai and thus, placed it among other classical musical instruments. He won accolades on the international level too.

The Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb banned the playing of the pungi in his royal court. He disliked the sound and so, the pungi was termed to be a noisemaker. A barber tried to improve the pungi's tone. He got a hollow stem, wider and longer than the pungi, made seven holes on it and blew into it, closing and opening the holes. It produced soft, melodious music. As this instrument had been developed by a barber called 'nai' in India and was played in the king's court called 'shah', the instrument was named 'shehnai'. The shehnai became a part of auspicious occasions. It was a part of the group of nine musical instruments that were played at the royal court.

Bismillah Khan was born at Dumraon, Bihar in 1916 into a family of musicians. His grandfather Rasool Bux Khan played the shehnai at the court of the king of Bhojpur. His father, Paigambar Bux and his paternal as well as maternal uncles were shehnai players. As a child, Bismillah Khan would visit the Bihariji temple to sing the Bhojpuri Chaita for which the king rewarded him with a laddu weighing 1.25kg. At the age of three, Bismillah Khan visited his maternal uncle, Ali Bux at Benaras. He saw him playing the shehnai and was fascinated by it. At the age of five, he started learning playing it. He would spend hours practicing, at the temple of Balaji and Mangala Maiya, by the banks of the holy river Ganga. The flowing waters of the river inspired him to improvise and Bismillah Khan invented ragas which were considered to be beyond the range of the shehnai.

At the age of fourteen, he performed at the Allahabad Music Conference and his talent was appreciated by Ustad Faiyaz Khan. In 1938, he started performing from the Lucknow station of the All India Radio. The day India gained independence, on 15th August 1947, Bismillah Khan performed from the Red Fort and greeted the country through his shehnai. He recited raag kafi which was followed by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's famous 'Tryst with Destiny' speech.

Bismillah Khan performed all around the world. His first foreign performance was in Afghanistan where the king was so impressed that he gifted him many souvenirs. Bismillah Khan composed music for two films – Hindi film titled – 'Goonj Uthi Shehnai' directed by Vijay Bhatt and Kannada film titled – 'Sanadhi Apanna' by Vikram Srinivas.

He was the first Indian to perform at the Lincoln Centre Hall in the United States of America. He also performed at Montreal, Cannes and Tokyo. In Teheran, an auditorium was named after him – Tahar Mosiquee Ustad Bismillah Khan.

Ustad Bismillah Khan said that music was India's richest heritage and had to be taught to the children. Although he had travelled all over the world, he was attached to Dumraon and Benaras. Once a student asked him to set up

a shehnai school in the USA and promised to recreate the temples of Benaras there. Bismillah Khan asked him whether he would transport the river Ganga also, as he was attached to it as well.

Bismillah Khan is a true example of a secular Indian as being a Muslim, he played the shehnai at the Kashi Vishwanath temple. For him music was above religious barriers.

Answer the following questions:

1. Why did Aurangzeb ban the playing of the *pungi*?
2. How is a shehnai different from a *pungi*?
3. Where was the shehnai played traditionally? How did Bismillah Khan change ' this?
4. When and how did Bismillah Khan get his big break?
5. Where did Bismillah Khan play the shehnai on 15 August 1947? Why was the event historic?
6. Why did Bismillah Khan refuse to start a shehnai school in the U.S.A.?
7. Find at least two instances in the text which tell you that Bismillah Khan loves India and Benaras.

GRAMMAR AND WRITING

1. ERROR OF OMISSION

	Before	Answer	After
Once a boy to a shop with his	(a)
Mother. The shopkeeper looked the	(a)
Little boy and showed a jar of	(a)
Sweets and said, "you take some".	(a)
But the child didn't any.			

2. FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH THE MOST SUITABLE WORDS. (Hint...HERE, PREPOSITIOS)

The train arrived (i) Mumbai at three o'clock. Vicky got (ii)..... The train and hurried (iii)..... the platform. He gave his ticket to the TTE by the gate and ran out. He was happy to be (iv)..... Mumbai, away from his family. He stopped a taxi and got in. Andheri West", he told the driver. At last he would go to the studio (v)..... Andheri West for his audition. He hoped he'd be (vi)..... time. He did not want to make bad impression.

3. ERROR OF EDITION

	INCORRECT		CORRECT
I returned with my son for indi	(a)
We flew by a magnificent expanse	(b)
Of the Himalayas after reaching.	(c)
The plane arrived in time.	(d)

3. REARRANGE THE FOLLOWING WORDS/PHRASES TO FORM MEANINGFULL SENTENCES

- a) Fruit/pale/yields/it/a/globose/yellow
- b) Regarded/digestive/laxative/as a/and anti-pyretic/it/is/tonic
- c) Colics/flatulence/it is/disorders/jaundice/prescribed in/and/many other

4. LETTER

Write a letter to the superintendent of police of the district complaining about the unauthorised construction of a block of three shops adjacent to the public park in your area. You are Harshit Hari/ Sagarika Sen, Chief Supervisor of Welfare Association of your area. Give the details yourself. (word limit 150-200 words)

