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Lesson 2: The Sound of Music (Evelyn Glennie & Bismillah Khan)

Detailed Explanation: The lesson is divided into two parts highlighting two iconic musicians – Evelyn Glennie and Bismillah Khan.

Part 1: Evelyn Glennie

Additional Questions for Part 1

1. At what age did Evelyn Glennie lose her hearing completely?

Answer: By the age of twelve.

Explanation: Her gradual hearing loss was caused by nerve damage, but she did not let it stop her passion for music.

2. Who first noticed Evelyn's potential in music despite her deafness?

Answer: Percussionist Ron Forbes.

Explanation: He taught Evelyn to feel music through vibrations in her body instead of only hearing it.

3. How did Evelyn prepare herself for the Royal Academy of Music in London?

Answer: She practiced tirelessly, learned to sense vibrations, and mastered multiple percussion instruments.

Explanation: Her dedication and innovative learning techniques helped her get admitted to the prestigious academy.

4. What recognition did Evelyn Glennie receive for her achievements?

Answer: She became an international percussionist and won multiple awards.

Explanation: Her story is an inspiration to people with disabilities, proving that hard work and self-belief can achieve anything.

5. How did Evelyn change people's perception about the differently-abled?

Answer: By performing on global stages and showing that disability is not a barrier to talent.

Explanation: Her life and career inspired countless individuals to pursue their dreams despite challenges.

Evelyn Glennie is a world-renowned Scottish percussionist who lost her hearing by the age of twelve. Her journey is a story of courage, perseverance, and passion for music. Despite being profoundly deaf, she learned to sense music through vibrations felt in her body – she feels high notes in her upper body and low notes in her feet. Evelyn worked hard with her

teachers, developed a unique method of learning music, and later became the first deaf musician to perform at a high professional level. Her life teaches us that determination and self-belief can overcome any disability.

Part 2: Bismillah Khan

Short Answer Questions

1. **Where did Bismillah Khan practice in his childhood?**

Answer: On the banks of the Ganga river in Varanasi.

Explanation: He believed the flowing water inspired his music and gave it a spiritual touch.

2. **What honor did Bismillah Khan receive from the Indian government?**

Answer: The Bharat Ratna.

Explanation: This is India's highest civilian award recognizing his contribution to classical music.

3. **Why is Bismillah Khan associated with India's Independence Day?**

Answer: He played the shehnai from the Red Fort on 15 August 1947.

Explanation: This marked India's first Independence Day celebration.

Long Answer Questions

5. **Describe Evelyn Glennie's learning process and her first major achievements in detail.**

Answer: Evelyn Glennie faced progressive hearing loss but discovered a way to learn music through vibrations. Mentored by Ron Forbes, she trained herself to sense high notes in her upper body and low notes in her feet. Her relentless practice earned her admission to the Royal Academy of Music in London. Soon, she performed internationally, breaking barriers and inspiring millions.

6. **Discuss the cultural significance of Bismillah Khan's music and how he promoted Indian classical music globally.**

Answer: Bismillah Khan's shehnai performances were deeply rooted in Indian tradition, often played at temples, weddings, and festivals. He took this ceremonial instrument to international concert stages, showcasing Indian culture and heritage. His concerts in foreign countries promoted India's soft power, and he always returned to Varanasi, reflecting his love for his roots.

7. **How does the life of Evelyn Glennie demonstrate the idea that physical disabilities do not limit one's potential?**

Answer: Evelyn Glennie's journey illustrates that determination and innovation can overcome physical challenges. Despite complete deafness, she developed a unique technique to experience music. Her global recognition as a percussionist proves that talent and hard work can transcend physical limitations.

Critical Thinking & Value-Based Questions

1. **What values do you learn from Evelyn Glennie's determination and Bismillah Khan's devotion to music?**

Answer: We learn the values of perseverance, passion, discipline, and love for one's art and culture.

2. **If you were in Evelyn's place, how would you motivate yourself to pursue your dreams? Answer:** By focusing on my strengths, practicing continuously, and believing that obstacles can be overcome with hard work.
3. **How does Bismillah Khan's life inspire the youth to stay rooted in their culture? Answer:** His life shows that embracing tradition and working with dedication can bring global recognition while preserving heritage.
4. **Describe the musical journey of Evelyn Glennie and the techniques she used to overcome deafness. Answer:** Evelyn Glennie, despite being profoundly deaf, learned to sense music through body vibrations, practiced diligently with expert teachers, and developed her own methods to identify notes. Her journey from a small Scottish town to international concert halls inspires others to overcome limitations.
5. **Explain Bismillah Khan's contribution to Indian music and his love for his country. Answer:** Bismillah Khan elevated the shehnai from a temple and wedding instrument to a respected classical concert instrument. He practiced by the Ganga and performed worldwide, always promoting Indian music. His performance on Independence Day at the Red Fort reflected his patriotic spirit and devotion to Indian culture.
6. **Compare and contrast the lives of Evelyn Glennie and Bismillah Khan, highlighting their struggles and achievements. Answer:** Evelyn Glennie overcame the challenge of deafness with determination and became a world-renowned percussionist, symbolizing personal perseverance. Bismillah Khan, born into a family of musicians, faced the struggle of popularizing the shehnai as a classical instrument and devoted his life to Indian music. Both achieved international recognition and inspire through their dedication and passion.
7. **Discuss how hard work and dedication shaped the lives of both musicians in 'The Sound of Music'. Answer:** Hard work was central to Evelyn's journey, as she practiced tirelessly to master percussion despite her disability. Similarly, Bismillah Khan's dedication to his art led him to practice for hours daily and stay rooted in tradition. Their dedication not only brought them success but also left a legacy that motivates future generations.
8. **Describe how Evelyn Glennie overcame her disability to become a world-class musician.**
Answer: Evelyn Glennie lost her hearing by age twelve, but she pursued music by sensing vibrations through her body. She trained rigorously, feeling higher notes in her upper body and lower notes in her feet. With determination, she became an international percussionist and an inspiration to millions.
9. **Explain Bismillah Khan's contribution to Indian music and his love for his country.**
Answer: Bismillah Khan elevated the shehnai from a temple and wedding instrument to a respected classical concert instrument. He practiced by the Ganga and performed worldwide, always promoting Indian music. His performance on Independence Day at the Red Fort reflected his patriotic spirit and devotion to Indian culture.

Part 2: Bismillah Khan

Bismillah Khan was a legendary Indian shehnai maestro who brought global recognition to the instrument. Born in a family of traditional musicians, he practiced tirelessly from childhood, often by the Ganga river in Varanasi. He elevated the shehnai from being a ceremonial instrument to a respected part of Indian classical music. Bismillah Khan performed at prestigious events, including India's Independence Day in 1947, and was awarded the Bharat Ratna for his contribution to music. His life demonstrates devotion to art and deep love for Indian culture.

Part 1: Evelyn Glennie

1. Who is Evelyn Glennie?

Answer: A world-famous Scottish percussionist who is profoundly deaf.

Explanation: Despite her disability, she pursued music and became an inspiration.

2. How does Evelyn sense music?

Answer: Through vibrations felt in different parts of her body.

Explanation: She feels high notes in her upper body and low notes in her feet.

3. Life lesson from Evelyn Glennie:

Answer: Determination and hard work can overcome any disability.

Part 2: Bismillah Khan

4. Who was Bismillah Khan?

Answer: A legendary Indian shehnai maestro.

Explanation: He popularized the shehnai worldwide and performed at prestigious events, including Independence Day.

5. Contribution to Indian music:

Answer: He elevated the shehnai to a classical concert instrument and received the Bharat Ratna.

Explanation: His music preserved Indian classical traditions.

Note : I am Jitendra. I trained the students in Public Speaking in English. I transform the student's career either in the field of Technology or in self-employability. If you feel so, you can connect with me directly via a email- jitendra@yoursoar.in or 9455914647

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