

CHAPTER

02

The Sound of Music

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Chapter Sketch

The chapter is divided into two parts. Both deal with the aspects of music and the legendary musicians who achieved excellence in their respective fields.

First part is about Evelyn Glennie, who inspite of being deaf, earned a name in the field of playing the xylophone.

In second part, we come to know about Bismillah Khan, a shehnai maestro who has achieved excellence in the field of shehnai playing. He was awarded 'Bharat Ratna' in 2001 in recognition of his contribution in the field of music. Both are inspiring musicians who have motivated many people.

About the Characters

Part-I

Evelyn Glennie The renowned xylophone player who was deaf but managed to overcome her disability.

Ron Forbes The percussionist who spotted the potential within the young Evelyn and motivated her to play drums.

Part-II

Aurangzeb A Mughal Emperor who banned the playing of pungi in the royal court.

Bismillah Khan The legendary shehnai player who brought this instrument to the front of the world.

Rasool Bux Khan The grandfather of the great Bismillah Khan.

Paigambar Bux The father of Bismillah Khan.

Ali Bux Maternal uncle of Bismillah Khan.

PART I Evelyn Glennie Listens to Sound Without Hearing it

Evelyn Lost her Hearing at a Young Age

This part is about a Scottish girl named Evelyn. She was very fond of music and wanted to make it her life slowly. Evelyn's lost her sense of hearing. It was first noticed when she was eight years old. By eleven year, she was completely deaf due to nerve damage.

Evelyn didn't Give up Hope and Never Looked Back

She was determined to lead a normal life and pursue her interest in music. One day, she noticed a girl playing a xylophone and decided that she wanted to play it too. Most of the teachers discouraged her but percussionist (a person who plays tabla or drum) Ron Forbes encouraged her. He began by tuning two large drums to different notes. Evelyn could feel the different notes of the drum in her body.

The rest was sheer determination and hard work. She travelled the United Kingdom with a youth orchestra and by the time she was sixteen, she had decided to make music her life. She auditioned for the Royal Academy of Music and scored one of the highest marks in the history of the academy. She gradually left the orchestral work and started giving solo performances. At the end of her three year course, she had received most of the top awards.

Evelyn Senses Music

She explains that music flows through every part of her body. It tingles in the skin, her cheekbones and even in her hair. When she plays the xylophone, she can sense the sound passing up the stick into her fingertips.

By leaning against the drums, she can feel the resonances (sounds) flowing into her body. On a wooden platform, she removes her shoes so that the vibrations pass through her bare feet and up her legs.

Evelyn : An Inspiration

Evelyn is a perfect example that disability can not stop a person to achieve if he/she is determined and works hard towards it. Evelyn earned many awards and rewards. She has given enormous pleasure to millions.

PART II

The Shehnai of Bismillah Khan

Pungi was Banned and then Revived

Emperor Aurangzeb had banned the playing of a musical instrument called *pungi* in the royal residence, as it had a shrill and unpleasant sound. A barber of a family of professional musicians decided to improve the tonal quality of the *pungi*. He played the improved instrument before royalty and everyone was impressed. The instrument had to be given a new name. As the story goes, since it was first played in the Shah's chambers and was played by a nai (barber), the instrument was named the '*shehnai*'.

Ustad Bismillah Khan Brought Shehnai to the Classical Stage

The sound of the *shehnai* began to be considered auspicious. And for this reason, it is still played in temples and is an indispensable component (important part) of any North Indian wedding. In the past, the *shehnai* was part of the *naubat* or traditional ensemble (group) of nine instruments found at royal courts. The credit for bringing this instrument onto the classical stage goes to Ustad Bismillah Khan.

Music was in Bismillah Khan's Blood

Bismillah belongs to a well-known family of musicians from Bihar. His grandfather, father and other paternal ancestors were also great *shehnai* players.

Bismillah was fascinated at watching his uncles practise the *shehnai*. He started accompanying his uncle Ali Bux and slowly, he started getting lessons in playing the instrument and would sit practising throughout the day. The flowing waters of the Ganga inspired him to put together and create ragas that were earlier considered to be beyond that range of the *shehnai*.

The Bright Future of Bismillah Khan

With the opening of the All India Radio in Lucknow in 1938 came Bismillah's big break. He soon became an often-heard *shehnai* player on radio. When India gained independence on 15th August, 1947, Bismillah Khan became the first Indian to greet the nation with his *shehnai*.

Film director Vijay Bhatt was so impressed after hearing him play at a festival that he named a film after the instrument called '*Gunj Uthi Shehnai*'.

A Renowned Musician and a True Indian

Bismillah Khan became the first Indian to be invited to perform at the prestigious Lincoln Centre Hall in the United States of America. National awards like the Padmashri, the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Vibhushan were conferred on him.

In 2001, Ustad Bismillah Khan was awarded India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna. Despite travelling to many countries, he was exceedingly fond of Benaras and Dumraon and they remain for him the most wonderful towns of the world.

He even refused a position in America saying that he cannot find the Ganga there. Whenever, he was travelling abroad his heart kept aching for his homeland.

» Chapter Highlights

Part I

- 1 Evelyn lost her hearing ability at the age of eleven but she started losing it at the age of eight.
- 2 Evelyn wanted to play xylophone but she was discouraged by all the other teachers.
- 3 Ron Forbes encouraged Evelyn to play xylophone and after that she never looked back.
- 4 Later on, she became the most sought after xylophone player with a hectic international schedule.
- 5 She claims that music flows throughout her body in the form of vibrations.
- 6 She was conferred upon by many awards like 'Soloist of the Year'.
- 7 She kept herself busy with performing for disabled, prisoners and for the sick. She was also a great woman of charity.
- 8 She was an icon, an inspiration and a motivation for the disabled.

Part II

- 1 Emperor Aurangzeb banned the playing of pungi but it was revived by a barber in his court with some improvisation and got the name shehnai.
- 2 The sound of shehnai was considered auspicious and it is a part of a North Indian wedding.
- 3 Earlier, Bismillah Khan was a player of gilli-danda but later on he earned Bharat Ratna.
- 4 Everyone from Bismillah Khan's family was a professional musician.
- 5 Bismillah Khan used to practise music on the bank of the Ganga for hours and he became perfect in the art.
- 6 He had his programmes in the All India Radio and played shehnai from the Red Fort at the time of independence.
- 7 Bismillah Khan travelled many countries and gave his performance there and impressed all his listeners.
- 8 He received many awards and recognition from all over the world. He received highest civilian award of India, the Bharat Ratna in 2001.

Word Meanings

Part I

The given page nos. correspond to the pages in the prescribed textbook.

Word	Meaning
PAGE 17	
rush hour	the usual hours of going to office and returning from the office that causes crowd
jostle	push roughly
daunting	frightening
profoundly	completely
deteriorated	started to become poorer
PAGE 18	
pursue	to carry on with one's interest in something
percussionist	a person who plays the tabla or drum etc
sheer	only

Word	Meaning
sought-after	one who is known for one's ability
intriguing	fascinating and curious
PAGE 19	
flawlessly	without a fault or mistake
lilt	a way of speaking
tingles	causes a slight pricking or stinging sensation
PAGE 20	
workaholic	(informal) a person who finds it difficult to stop working

Part II

Word	Meaning
PAGE 21	
generic name	a name given to a class or group as a whole
revived	to get back to life or to use
PAGE 22	
auspicious	promising to bring good fortune
indispensable	something that is an important part of anything
ensemble	a group of things
paternal ancestors	ancestors of the father
PAGE 23	
accompanying	to go together or be together
haunts	places visited more often
improvise	to do a thing in a new and in a different way
souvenirs	things given in the memory of something
PAGE 24	
chartbuster	record breaker
celluloid	the world of cinema
ventures	a risky task
artificiality	that involves artificial things
coveted	much desired
glinting	shining
exceedingly	beyond the limits
yearning	keep on dying for
PAGE 25	
devout	strong believer of a religion
prolonged	that lasts longer

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NCERT FOLDER

(Here we have covered questions given in the NCERT textbook along with their answers.)

Part I

Thinking about the Text (Page 20)

- I. Answer these questions in a few words or a couple, of sentences each.

- 1 How old was Evelyn when she went to the Royal Academy of Music?

Ans. Evelyn was about seventeen years old when she went to the Royal Academy of Music in London. She was nervous as well as excited before going there but had a firm determination.

- 2 When was her deafness first noticed? When was it confirmed?

Ans. Her deafness was first noticed by her mother when Evelyn was eight years old. When her name was called, she never responded as she could not hear it properly. Her deafness was confirmed when she was eleven years old.

- II. Answer each of these questions in a short paragraph (30-40 words).

- 1 Who helped Evelyn to continue with music? What did he do and say?

Ans. Percussionist Ron Forbes helped Evelyn to continue with music. He began by tuning two large drums to different notes. He told Evelyn not to listen through her ears, but to try and sense the sound through some other way.

- 2 Name the various places and causes for which Evelyn performs.

Ans. Apart from the regular concerts, she gives free concerts in prisons and hospitals. She gives high priority to classes for young musicians. She is an inspiration to deaf children.

- III. Answer the question in two or three paragraphs. (100-150 words)

- 1 How does Evelyn hear music?

Ans. Evelyn was deaf. She could not hear music through her ears. She used to 'hear' music by sensing the notes in different parts of her body. Ron Forbes taught her to 'hear' like this. He tuned two drums to different notes and asked her to sense the sound in some other way.

Evelyn realised that she could feel the higher drum from the waist up and the lower drum from the waist down.

When she played the xylophone, she could sense the sound passing up the stick into her fingertips. By leaning against the drums, she could feel the resonances flowing into her body. On a wooden platform, she removed her shoes so that the vibrations could pass through her bare feet. She herself said that music poured in through every part of her body. It tingled in the skin, her cheekbones and even in her hair.

Hearing music was like feeling it throughout her body which was a skill for her as she was not able to hear it normally. If she would not have been able to hear it this way then she would not have mastered the art of that high level.

Part II

Thinking about the Text (Page 25)

- I. Tick the right answer.

- 1 The (*shehnai*, *pungi*) was a 'reeded noisemaker.'

Ans. The *pungi* was a 'reeded noisemaker.'

- 2 (Bismillah Khan, a barber, Ali Bux) transformed the *pungi* into a *shehnai*.

Ans. A barber transformed the *pungi* into a *shehnai*.

- 3 Bismillah Khan's paternal ancestors were (barbers, professional musicians).

Ans. Bismillah Khan's paternal ancestors were professional musicians.

- 4 Bismillah Khan learnt to play the *shehnai* from (Ali Bux, Paigambar Bux, Ustad Faiyaz Khan).

Ans. Bismillah Khan learnt to play the *shehnai* from Ali Bux.

- 5 Bismillah Khan's first trip abroad was to (Afghanistan, USA, Canada).

Ans. Bismillah Khan's first trip abroad was to Afghanistan.

II. Find the words in the text which show Ustad Bismillah Khan's feelings about the items listed below.

Then mark a, tick (✓) in the correct column.
Discuss your answers in class.

Bismillah Khan's feelings about	Positive	Negative	Neutral
1. Teaching children music			
2. The film world			
3. Migrating to the USA			
4. Playing at temples			
5. Getting the Bharat Ratna			
6. The banks of the Ganga			
7. Leaving Benaras and Dumraon			

Ans.

Bismillah Khan's feelings about	Positive	Negative	Neutral
1. Teaching children music	✓		
2. The film world		✓	
3. Migrating to the USA		✓	
4. Playing at temples	✓		
5. Getting the Bharat Ratna	✓		
6. The banks of the Ganga	✓		
7. Leaving Benaras and Dumraon		✓	

Discussion over the feelings of Bismillah Khan about different things :

Bismillah Khan's Feelings about	Words in the text
1. Teaching children music Getting the Bharat Ratna	With the coveted award resting on his chest and his eyes glinting with rare happiness he said, "All I would like to say is Teach your children music, this is: Hindustan's richest tradition; even the West is now coming to learn our music."
2. The film world	"I just can't come to terms with the artificiality and glamour of the film world," he says with emphasis.
3. Migrating to the USA	A student of his once wanted him to head a <i>shehnai</i> school in the USA and the student promised to recreate the atmosphere of Benaras by replicating (creating the real duplicates of) the temples there. But Bismillah Khan would be able to transport river Ganga as well. Later, he is remembered to have said, "That is why whenever I am in a foreign country, I keep yearning to see Hindustan."

Bismillah Khan's Feelings about	Words in the text
4. Playing at temples	Ustad Bismillah Khan's life is a perfect example of the rich, cultural heritage of India, one that effortlessly accepts that a devout Muslim like him can very naturally play the <i>shehnai</i> every morning at the Kashi Vishwanath temple.
5. The banks of the Ganga	The flowing waters of the Ganga inspired him to improvise and invent ragas that were earlier considered to be beyond the range of the <i>shehnai</i> .
6. Leaving Benaras and Dumraon	Later he is remembered to have said, "That is why whenever I am in a foreign country, I keep yearning to see Hindustan. While in Mumbai, I think of only Benaras and the holy Ganga and while in Benaras, I miss the unique <i>mattha</i> of Dumraon."

III. Answer these questions in 30-40 words.

1 Why did Aurangzeb ban the playing of the *pungi*?

Ans. Emperor Aurangzeb banned the playing of the *pungi* because it had a shrill and unpleasant sound. It became the generic name for reeded noisemakers. Due to its unpleasant sound, it was banned in the royal court.

2 How is a *shehnai* different from a *pungi*?

Ans. Unlike *pungi*, *shehnai* is a pipe with a natural hollow stem that is longer and broader. It also has seven holes on its body. When it is played by the closing and opening of some of the holes, it produces soft and melodious sounds. Hence, it is different from the *pungi*.

3 Where was the *shehnai* played traditionally? How did Bismillah Khan change this?

Ans. The *shehnai* was traditionally played in royal courts, temples and weddings. Bismillah Khan changed this by improvising and creating ragas that were earlier considered to be beyond the range of the *shehnai*.

4 When and how did Bismillah Khan get his big break?

Ans. Bismillah Khan got his big break with the opening of the All India Radio in Lucknow in 1938. He soon became an often-heard *shehnai* player on radio.

5 Where did Bismillah Khan play the *shehnai* on 15th August, 1947? Why was the event historic?

Ans. On 15th August, 1947, Bismillah Khan played the *shehnai* from the Red Fort. It was a historic day as India gained independence on that day. He became the first Indian to greet the independent nation with his *shehnai*.

6 Why did Bismillah Khan refuse to start a *shehnai* school in the USA?

Ans. Bismillah Khan's student had asked him to head a music school in the USA, but he refused because he could not live outside India. The student promised that he would recreate the atmosphere of Benaras by replicating the temples in the city. To this, Bismillah Khan wanted to know if his student could also transport the river Ganga.

7 Find at least two instances in the text which tell you that Bismillah Khan loves India and Benaras.

Ans. The first instance is when he turned down his student's offer to start a *shehnai* school in the USA. The second instance is when he was asked why he did not shift to Pakistan during partition. He said that he would never leave Benaras.

Thinking about Language (Page 26)

Look at these sentences.

- Evelyn was determined to live a normal life.
 - Evelyn managed to conceal her growing deafness from friends and teachers.
- The italicised parts answer the questions: "What was Evelyn determined to do?" and "What did Evelyn manage to do?" They begin with a to-verb (*to live, to conceal*).

1. Complete the following sentences. Beginning with a to-verb, try to answer the questions in brackets

1 The school sportsteam hopes (What does it hope to do?)

Ans. The school sportsteam hopes to win the tournament.

2 We all want (What do we all want to do?).

Ans. We all want to succeed.

3 They advised the hearing-impaired child's mother (What did they advise her to do?)

Ans. They advised the hearing-impaired child's mother to show her to a specialist.

4 The authorities permitted us to (What did the authorities permit us to do?)

Ans. The authorities permitted us to play.

5 A musician decided to (What did the musician decide to do?)

Ans. A musician decided to play a new raaga.

II. From the text on Bismillah Khan, find the words and phrases that match these definitions and write them down. The number of the paragraph where you will find the words/phrases has been given for you in brackets.

1 The home of royal people (1)

Ans. royal residence

2 The state of being alone (5)

Ans. to be solitude

3 A part which is absolutely necessary (2)

Ans. an indispensable component

4 To do something not done before (5)

Ans. improvise

5 Without much effort (13)

Ans. effortlessly

6 quickly and in large quantities (9) and

Ans. thick and fast

III. Tick the right answer

- 1 When something is revived, it (remains dead/lives again).

Ans. lives again.

- 2 When a government bans something, it wants it (stopped/started).

Ans. to be stopped.

- 3 When something is considered auspicious, (welcome it/avoid it).

Ans. welcome it.

- 4 When we take to something we find it (boring/interesting).

Ans. interesting.

- 5 When you appreciate something, you (find it good and useful/find it of no use).

Ans. find it good and useful.

- 6 When you replicate something, you do it (for the first time/for the second time.)

Ans. you do it for the second time.

- 7 When we come to terms with something, it is (still upsetting/no longer upsetting).

Ans. it is no longer upsetting.

Writing (Page 29)

"If you work hard and know where you're going, you'll get there," says Evelyn Glennie.

You have now read about two musicians, Evelyn Glennie and Ustad Bismillah Khan. Do you think that they both worked hard? Where did they want to 'go'? Answer these questions in two paragraphs, one on each of the two musicians.

Ans. Both of these musicians worked hard to achieve their goals. Evelyn Glennie was totally deaf, but never gave up. She was determined to pursue her interest in music, besides trying to lead a normal life. Due to her efforts, she was awarded the Royal Philharmonic Society's prestigious Soloist of the Year Award in 1991. She had, by this time, achieved more than most people twice her age. Bismillah Khan had the advantage of belonging to a well-known family of musicians from Bihar. He started getting lessons in playing the *shehnai* at a very young age and would practise throughout the day. For many years the temple of Balaji and Mangala Maiya and the banks of the Ganga became his favourite haunts where he could practise alone without disturbance. He reached the top when he was awarded the Bharat Ratna award in 2001.

Exam Practice

Part I

Evelyn Glennie Listens to Sound Without Hearing it

Extract Based Questions

[4 Marks each]

Read the following extracts carefully and choose the correct option.

1 Rush hour crowds jostle for position on the underground train platform. A slight girl, looking younger than her seventeen years, was nervous yet excited as she felt the vibrations of the approaching train. It was her first day at the prestigious Royal Academy of Music in London and daunting enough for any teenager fresh from a Scottish farm. But, this aspiring musician faced a bigger challenge than most: she was profoundly deaf.

- (i) Why was there a jostling on the platform?
 - (a) There was a bomb scare
 - (b) It was the rush hour
 - (c) Presence of an actress
 - (d) A celebrity was travelling
- (ii) Why was the girl nervous?
 - (a) It was her first road show
 - (b) First music competition
 - (c) It was her first day at Royal Academy of Music
 - (d) Travelling by train for the first time
- (iii) The word 'jostling' as used in the passage would mean
 - (a) exploit
 - (b) bump against each other
 - (c) push
 - (d) conflict
- (iv) What was the most challenging thing for the girl?
 - (a) Financial problem
 - (b) Loss of her parents
 - (c) Her deafness
 - (d) No music teacher

managed to conceal her growing deafness from friends and teachers. But, by the time she was eleven her marks had deteriorated and her headmistress urged her parents to take her to a specialist. It was then discovered that her hearing was severely impaired as a result of gradual nerve damage. They were advised that she should be fitted with hearing aids and sent to a school for the deaf. "Everything suddenly looked black", says Evelyn.

- (i) How was Evelyn's problem initially noticed?
 - (a) Didn't respond to while being called
 - (b) Teacher's complained
 - (c) Marks deteriorated
 - (d) She could not sing
- (ii) Why did Evelyn say, "Everything looked black"?
 - (a) She could not see
 - (b) Change of school due to deafness
 - (c) Change of surroundings
 - (d) Change of friends
- (iii) Which word is not similar to the word 'progressed' in the extract?
 - (a) momentum
 - (b) betterment
 - (c) deteriorated
 - (d) increase
- (iv) Why was Evelyn taken to a specialist?
 - (a) To cure her deafness
 - (b) To assess her hearing impairment
 - (c) To check her eyesight
 - (d) To check her mental fitness

- Ans. (i) (a) Didn't respond to while being called
(ii) (b) Change of school due to deafness
(iii) (c) deteriorated
(iv) (b) To assess her hearing impairment

2 Evelyn Glennie's loss of hearing had been gradual. Her mother remembers noticing something was wrong when the eight-year-old Evelyn was waiting to play the piano. "They called her name and she didn't move. I suddenly realised she hadn't heard", says Isabel Glennie. For quite a while Evelyn

3 But Evelyn was not going to give up. She was determined to lead a normal life and pursue her interest in music. One day she noticed a girl playing a xylophone and decided that she wanted to play it too. Most of the teachers discouraged her but percussionist Ron Forbes spotted her potential. He began

by tuning two large drums to different notes. "Don't listen through your ears", he would say, "try to sense it some other way." Says Evelyn, "Suddenly I realised I could feel the higher drum from the waist up and the lower one from the waist down." Forbes repeated the exercise, and soon Evelyn discovered that she could sense certain notes in different parts of her body. "I had learnt to open my mind and body to sounds and vibrations." The rest was sheer determination and hard work.

- (i) What was Evelyn's determination?
 - (a) To go to a normal school
 - (b) To pursue interest in Music
 - (c) To study non-stop
 - (d) To go to a special school
- (ii) Who was the first to notice Evelyn's potential?
 - (a) Her school teacher
 - (b) Evelyn's Mother
 - (c) Percussionist Ron Forbes
 - (d) Evelyn's friends
- (iii) How did Evelyn sense the music inspite of her deafness?
 - (a) Through smell
 - (b) Through different parts of her body
 - (c) Through her eyes
 - (d) Through her brain
- (iv) The expression "to open my mind and body" means
 - (a) to perform major surgery
 - (b) to speak candidly
 - (c) to make something available
 - (d) to be receptive to

- Ans.** (i) (b) To pursue interest in Music
 (ii) (c) Percussionist Ron Forbes
 (iii) (b) Through different parts of her body
 (iv) (d) to be receptive to

4 She never looked back from that point onwards. She toured the United Kingdom with a youth orchestra and by the time she was sixteen, she had decided to make music her life. She auditioned for the Royal Academy of Music and scored one of the highest marks in the history of the academy. She gradually moved from orchestral work to solo performances. At the end of her three-year course, she had captured most of the top awards. And for all this, Evelyn won't accept any hint of heroic achievement. "If you work hard and know where you are going, you'll get there."

- (i) What history did Evelyn create for Royal Academy of Music ?
 - (a) She became top performer
 - (b) Scored highest marks ever
 - (c) Decided to open an academy
 - (d) Received many awards
- (ii) How Evelyn changed her performing style in Music?
 - (a) Started singing
 - (b) Moved to solo from orchestra
 - (c) Toured many countries
 - (d) Started dancing with drumming
- (iii) Find a word that is antonym of word 'hastily'.
 - (a) Impulsively
 - (b) Speedily
 - (c) Gradually
 - (d) Rashly
- (iv) What has Evelyn gained by the end of her three year course?
 - (a) Patience
 - (b) Perseverance
 - (c) Winning all top awards
 - (d) Making lots of money

- Ans.** (i) (b) Scored highest marks ever
 (ii) (b) Moved to solo from orchestra
 (iii) (c) Gradually
 (iv) (c) Winning all top awards

5 As for music, she explains, "It pours in through every part of my body. It tingles in the skin, my cheekbones and even in my hair." When she plays the xylophone, she can sense the sound passing up the stick into her fingertips. By leaning against the drums, she can feel the resonances flowing into her body. On a wooden platform she removes her shoes so that the vibrations pass through her bare feet and up her legs.

- (i) How did Evelyn 'hear' the music inspite of deafness?
 - (a) Felt it through different body parts
 - (b) By talking about it
 - (c) By reading about it
 - (d) Through constant practice
- (ii) Why does Evelyn remove her shoes on a wooden platform?
 - (a) To show respect
 - (b) To feel the vibrations
 - (c) To dance
 - (d) To act
- (iii) The word 'tingle' as used in the passage means
 - (a) touches
 - (b) shiver
 - (c) experience a sensation
 - (d) sting

- (iv) How does Evelyn's story inspire others
 (a) pursue your dreams (b) never give up
 (c) be hopeful (d) All of these

Ans. (i) (a) Felt it through different body parts
 (ii) (b) To feel the vibrations
 (iii) (c) experience a sensation
 (iv) (d) All of these

- 6** Says master percussionist James Blades, "God may have taken her hearing but he has given her back something extraordinary. What we hear, she feels—far more deeply than any of us. That is why she expresses music so beautifully." Evelyn confesses that she is something of a workaholic. "I've just got to work ... often harder than classical musicians. But, the rewards are enormous."

Apart from the regular concerts, Evelyn also gives free concerts in prisons and hospitals. She also gives high priority to classes for young musicians. Ann Richlin of the Beethoven Fund for deaf children says, "She is a shining inspiration for deaf children."

They see that there is nowhere that they cannot go."

- (i) What extraordinary ability has God given to Evelyn?
 (a) To see the music (b) To hear the music
 (c) To feel music deeply (d) To perform well
 (ii) What did Evelyn confess?
 (a) She enjoyed hard work
 (b) She is a workaholic
 (c) She wanted to relax
 (d) She loved to hear Music
 (iii) What does the expression "there is nowhere they cannot go" mean?
 (a) Travel all around (b) Earn lots of money
 (c) Can achieve greatness
 (d) Can impress audience
 (iv) In what ways Evelyn helps others?
 (a) By giving free concerts
 (b) High priority to young musicians
 (c) Donation to different organisations
 (d) Both 'a' and 'b'

Ans. (i) (c) To feel music deeply
 (ii) (b) She is a workaholic
 (iii) (c) Can achieve greatness
 (iv) (d) Both 'a' and 'b'

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

[2 Marks each]

- 1** Who was Ron Forbes and what did he do?

Ans. Ron Forbes was a master percussionist and he encouraged Evelyn to play the two large drums to different notes. He wanted Evelyn to hear the music not through ear but through her body. He helped Evelyn to hear the music inspite of her deafness.

- 2** How did Evelyn become able to sense different notes?

Ans. Evelyn became able to sense different notes by opening her body and mind to sounds and vibrations. She can sense resonances of music flowing into her body. She used to stand barefoot so that she could sense the vibrations easily.

- 3** What special achievement did Evelyn have in the history of Royal Academy?

Ans. The special achievement that Evelyn had in the history of Royal Academy was that she was the highest scorer in the course. Except her, nobody else had done it ever in the history of the academy.

- 4** What did Evelyn say about her sensing the music?

Ans. Evelyn said that the music poured in through every part of her body. Music tingled in her skin and in

her cheek bones. She could hear it the other way by sensing the vibrations.

- 5** Why did Evelyn use to remove her shoes on a wooden platform?

Ans. On a wooden platform Evelyn used to remove her shoes so that she could sense the vibrations passing through her bare feet. With shoes, she could not get the vibrations properly and therefore would not be able to feel the music.

- 6** How was Evelyn able to express music so beautifully?

Ans. Evelyn was able to express music beautifully because she was able to feel it far more deeply than others. Others can only hear music by ears but Evelyn can sense music through her body. She was able to feel the vibrations in her body.

- 7** Which are the places where Evelyn performed her concerts?

Ans. Evelyn has given free concerts. Besides, she performed at many places such as prisons, hospitals. She also performed for those children who aspire to be musicians. She has given inspirations to those who are handicapped.

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

[8 Marks each]

- 1 How was the deafness of Evelyn detected for the first time? When was it confirmed?

Ans. Evelyn was waiting to play the piano once. She was waiting for her name to be called. Somebody called her name but she didn't move at all. With this no response, it was probable that her hearing ability had been impaired. That gave a hint of her abnormality for the first time. Anyway, she was able to conceal her deafness somehow. But, it was evident that the impairment would not be suppressed for long. When she was eleven, her marks began to deteriorate and, on the urge of her headmistress, her parents took her to a specialist and then only was it confirmed that, due to gradual nerve damage, she wouldn't be able to hear anymore.

- 2 How did Ron Forbes help Evelyn sense the music without hearing?

Ans. Ron Forbes was the one who sensed the potential within Evelyn and he encouraged her to play the drums. He began doing that by giving her two large drums.

He told her to tune these two drums with different notes. He added that she should not listen to the music through her ears but she should do it some other way.

Vibrations were easy to spot in the body than hearing it through the ears. With vibrations, she was able to sense the music in her body and could

understand it very easily. She did it on her own and it was the idea of Ron Forbes.

When that exercise was developed and repeated many a time, Evelyn began to feel the sounds and vibrations. Ultimately, she was able to sense the music without hearing.

- 3 For which causes did Evelyn perform? What values does she depict by doing so?

Ans. Evelyn used to perform in prisons and in hospitals. She also gave priority for the classes to young aspiring musicians. By doing so, Evelyn showed that she was caring for the ones who were deprived of the pleasure and happiness of life.

When she performed in prison and hospitals it was meant for the most suffering people who could not see the bright side of the life. They were scarce of the colours of life.

She valued the emotions of those people who were not enjoying life.

For those who were aspiring to achieve something, she had shown due respect to their aspirations by devoting a part of her time to them. She was much more than an inspiration to them; she was a living legend to them.

She knew the fact that if these aspiring kids would see her perform then they would be motivated so much and it would help them realise their dream. Hence, Evelyn's concept of performing for these deprived ones was to allow them the possible ways of enjoyment.

Part II

The Shehnai of Bismillah Khan

Extract Based Questions

[4 Marks each]

Read the following extracts carefully and choose the correct option.

- 1 Emperor Aurangzeb banned the playing of a musical instrument called *pungi* in the royal residence for it had a shrill unpleasant sound. *Pungi* became the generic name for reeded noisemakers. Few had thought that it would one day be revived. A barber of a family of professional musicians, who had access to the royal palace, decided to improve the tonal quality of the *pungi*. He chose a pipe

with a natural hollow stem that was longer and broader than the *pungi* and made seven holes on the body of the pipe. When he played on it closing and opening some of these holes, soft and melodious sounds were produced.

- (i) Why did Aurangzeb ban the playing of 'Pungi'?
- It was waste of time
 - It had unpleasant sound
 - It was against religion
 - He did not like it

- (ii) Who decided to improve the tonal quality of Pungi?
 (a) A royal minister (b) Aurangzeb himself
 (c) A Royal barber (d) A musician
- (iii) Find a substitute for "Pleasant to listen to"
 (a) musical (b) lyrical
 (c) melodious (d) relaxing
- (iv) How was quality of Pungi improved?
 (a) Changing the number of holes
 (b) Size of pungi was changed
 (c) A hollow pipe with seven holes was taken
 (d) Nobody improved its quality

Ans. (i) (b) It had unpleasant sound

(ii) (c) A Royal barber

(iii) (c) melodious

(iv) (c) A hollow pipe with seven holes was taken

2 The sound of the *shehnai* began to be considered auspicious. And for this reason it is still played in temples and is an indispensable component of any North Indian wedding. In the past, the *shehnai* was part of the naubat or traditional ensemble of nine instruments found at royal courts. Till recently it was used only in temples and weddings. The credit for bringing this instrument onto the classical stage goes to Ustad Bismillah Khan.

As a five-year old, Bismillah Khan played gilli-danda near a pond in the ancient estate of Dumraon in Bihar. He would regularly go to the nearby Bihariji temple to sing the Bhojpuri '*Chaita*', at the end of which he would earn a big laddu weighing 1.25 kg, a prize given by the local Maharaja.

This happened 80 years ago and the little boy has travelled far to earn the highest civilian award in India the 'Bharat Ratna'.

- (i) What is Bismillah Khan's contribution towards Shehnai?
 (a) He improvised it
 (b) Brought this to classical stage
 (c) Sudden increase in its cost
 (d) Both 'a' and 'b'
- (ii) Why did Bismillah Khan get a big Laddu?
 (a) For playing Shehnai
 (b) For singing 'Chaita' in temple
 (c) For improvising Shehnai
 (d) For playing gilli and danda
- (iii) Which word is antonym of the word 'global' as used in the passage?
 (a) Worldwide (b) Universal
 (c) Local (d) All inclusive

- (iv) Why is Shehnai important?
 (a) It is auspicious
 (b) Played in North Indian weddings
 (c) Part of traditional collection
 (d) All of the above

Ans. (i) (d) Both 'a' and 'b'

(ii) (b) For singing 'Chaita' in temple

(iii) (c) Local

(iv) (d) All of the above

3 At the age of 14, Bismillah accompanied his uncle to the Allahabad Music Conference. At the end of his recital, Ustad Faiyaz Khan patted the young boy's back and said, "Work hard and you shall make it." With the opening of the All India Radio in Lucknow in 1938 came Bismillah's big break. He soon became an often heard *shehnai* player on radio.

When India gained Independence on 15th August, 1947, Bismillah Khan became the first Indian to greet the nation with his *shehnai*. He poured his heart out into Raag Kafi from the Red Fort to an audience which included Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who later gave his famous 'Tryst with Destiny' speech.

- (i) How did Ustad Faiyaz Khan encourage Bismillah Khan?
 (a) By giving him an award
 (b) Gave cash
 (c) Touched his back in appreciation
 (d) Scolded him
- (ii) Where did Bismillah Khan play Shehnai immediately after Independence?
 (a) At Nehru's house (b) In Lucknow
 (c) At Red Fort
 (d) At Ramleela ground in Delhi
- (iii) What does the expression 'poured his heart out' mean?
 (a) Sang along with Shehnai
 (b) To share strong emotions
 (c) Cry loudly
 (d) Burst in tears
- (iv) How is the opening of All India Radio important to Bismillah Khan?
 (a) He got his first break
 (b) Got a job there
 (c) He became famous
 (d) Met Mr. Nehru

Ans. (i) (c) Touched his back in appreciation

(ii) (c) At Red Fort

(iii) (b) To share strong emotions

(iv) (a) He got his first break

4 Awards and recognition came thick and fast. Bismillah Khan became the first Indian to be invited to perform at the prestigious Lincoln Centre Hall in the United States of America. He also took part in the World Exposition in Montreal, in the Cannes Art Festival and in the Osaka Trade Fair. So well known did he become internationally that an auditorium in Teheran was named after him- Tahar Mosiquee Ustaad Bismillah Khan. National Awards like the Padmashri, the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Vibhushan were conferred on him.

In 2001, Ustad Bismillah Khan was awarded India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna.

- (i) In which country an auditorium is named after Bismillah Khan?
 (a) USA (b) UK
 (c) Scotland (d) Teheran

- (ii) Which highest civilian award was conferred on Bismillah Khan?
 (a) Padma Vibhushan (b) Padmashri
 (c) Bharat Ratna (d) Padma Bhushan
 (iii) What does the expression "Awards came thick and fast" mean?
 (a) In limited numbers
 (b) Less appreciation
 (c) Came rapidly and in large numbers
 (d) Lots of cash awards
 (iv) Why was Bismillah Khan called to USA?
 (a) To open an Academy
 (b) To play Shehnai at White House
 (c) To perform at prestigious Lincola Centre Hall
 (d) To participate in a competition

- Ans. (i) (d) Teheran
 (ii) (c) Bharat Ratna
 (iii) (c) Came rapidly and in large numbers
 (iv) (c) To perform at prestigious Lincola Centre Hall

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

[2 Marks each]

1 Why had Aurangzeb banned the *pungi*? Who revived it and how?

Ans. Aurangzeb had banned the *pungi* due to its shrill and unpleasant sound. A barber from the family of a professional musician revived it by making a few holes on its body, thus creating a melodious sound out of it.

2 Where did the *shehnai* get its due place and why?

Ans. *Shehnai* got its due place in temples and in weddings, as it is considered auspicious. It had a place in the traditional ensemble of nine musical instruments at the royal courts. It is an indispensable part of north Indian Wedding.

3 Mention the event that used to take place regularly when Bismillah was five years old.

Ans. When Bismillah was five years old he would go to the nearby Bihari ji temple regularly to sing the Bhojpuri 'Chaita'. At the end of this, he used to get a big laddu as a prize weighing 1.25 kg, a prize given by the local Maharaja.

4 Describe the family members of Bismillah Khan.

Ans. The family members of Bismillah Khan were well-known musicians. His grandfather was in the court of Bhojpur's king and his father was a great shehnai player also. Even the members of his family on the maternal side were also musicians.

5 How did Bismillah get the first lesson in the playing of *shehnai*?

Ans. Bismillah got the first lesson in playing *shehnai* by accompanying his maternal uncle Ali Bux, who visited the Vishnu temple at Benaras to play the *shehnai*. In his company, young Bismillah got his first lesson.

6 What did Ustad Faiyaz Khan say about Bismillah?

Ans. When Bismillah went to the Allahabad Music Conference, after his recital Ustad Faiyaz Khan came to him and patted his back. This was a compliment to him and Faiyaz Khan further added that if Bismillah worked hard he would make it.

7 When did Bismillah get his first big break and how did it impact his career?

Ans. In 1938, All India Radio was opened in Lucknow and with that Bismillah got his first big break. After that, he was a man who was often heard on air.

- 8 Where was Bismillah's first journey abroad? What impact did it leave there?

Ans. Bismillah's first journey abroad was to Afghanistan, where he impressed the king of Afghanistan so much that the king gifted him many priceless Persian carpets and other souvenirs. He earned name and fame there.

- 9 Despite being successful, why did Bismillah not take to the celluloid world?

Ans. Bismillah didn't take to the celluloid world despite his success because he was unable to come to terms with its glamour and the artificiality. He believed in simplicity and had highest level of thought.

- 10 What did Bismillah say after getting the Bharat Ratna award?

Ans. After getting the Bharat Ratna, Bismillah said that Indians should value their music and should teach it to their kids. Indian music is so rich that the West is now learning this art. This was a word of encouragement for the youngsters.

- 11 Which were the most beautiful towns for Bismillah Khan? Why was it so?

Ans. The most beautiful towns for Bismillah Khan were Benaras and Dumraon. These were beautiful because he loved India very much and never wanted to leave it. He learnt music at the bank of the Ganga in Benaras.

- 12 Why did Bismillah refuse to head the *shehnai* school in USA?

Ans. Bismillah refused to head the *shehnai* school in USA because there would be no Benaras and there would be no river Ganga there. Moreover, he was fond of his own country and he never wanted to leave it.

- 13 Why and how was Bismillah a perfect example of India's cultural heritage?

Ans. Bismillah was a perfect example of India's cultural heritage because he was a symbol of secularism; despite being a Muslim, he played *shehnai* at the temples. He reflected India's core principle 'Unity in Diversity'.

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

[8 Marks each]

- 1 Naming of the *shehnai* has a story behind it. What values are associated with this naming?

Ans. Emperor Aurangzeb banned the playing of the *pungi* in his royal court because it had a very shrill sound. It was a noisemaker. After some time, a barber from a family of professional musicians decided to revive the *pungi*. He chose a longer and broader pipe and made a few holes on its body. When he played on this pipe by opening and closing the holes, it produced a very melodious sound. As it was invented in the court of the *shah* (king) by a *nai* (barber) it got the name '*shehnai*'. Thereby, the barber revived a musical instrument that was put to no use. This reflects the idea that with some positive changes and mindset, even noisemakers can be turned to melodious instruments. It is all about the view point, zeal, determination and of course, the understanding. The barber had all those virtues with him and therefore, we have today *pungi* with us in the form of *shehnai*.

- 2 Describe the importance of *shehnai* in Indian classical music. How did Bismillah contribute to its development?

Ans. The *shehnai*'s sound is considered very auspicious. Due to this it is played in temples and has become

an indispensable part of North Indian weddings. In earlier times, it was a part of the traditional custom of the royal court.

Whenever we think of classical music *shehnai* is a name that comes to our mind. Any North Indian wedding is incomplete without *shehnai* and it is often heard at the temples for the reason it is considered auspicious and pious.

Therefore, it can be said that *shehnai* was very important in Indian music. Bismillah Khan changed the concept of playing of *shehnai*. He brought it to the front of classical music. He made it a global instrument and took it to the world stage.

Bismillah Khan pioneered the journey of the *shehnai* and made it a huge success. Without his contribution, it would have been difficult.

- 3 How valuable the contributions of Bismillah's elders were in shaping him into a great bard of music?

Ans. It is true to say that childhood is the stage when traits can be instilled in an individual very well. Such was the case with Bismillah Khan. He took to music very early in his life, at a tender age of three. His ancestors were all musicians, be it his paternal or maternal ancestors. His grandfather and father were professional musicians. Therefore, he had an environment of music all around him. He was

influenced by his maternal uncle, who played it in the Vishnu temple in Benaras. Bismillah adopted the habit of practising for hours.

He accompanied his elders to all those places where they performed. He was learning all the inputs with them. Taking to music in an early age, let it be with himself all along his youth and with the devoted contribution of his elders, he made it another name of success for himself.

4 Justify Bismillah Khan as a true Indian.

Ans. Undoubtedly, Bismillah Khan was a true Indian. Despite being a devout Muslim, he used to play shehnai in temples. He loved his country very much. When one of his students asked him to head a

shehnai school in USA, he refused, saying he wouldn't find river Ganga there. He once said that whenever he was out of India, he kept on yearning for his motherland and missed the Ganga sorely.

On getting Bharat Ratna he said that the parents of the country should teach their children music and supported it by saying that even the West was coming to learn it. He was the true representative of India and the Core Indian values. Simple living and high thinking has been India's age old value which he kept with himself. He never believed in the glamour and the world of artificiality. He always believed in simplicity which is epitome of Indian civilisation. Hence, he was a true Indian.

Self Assessment

Extract Based Questions

Read the following extracts carefully and choose the correct option.

- 1 Evelyn confesses that she is something of a workaholic. "I've just got to work... often harder than classical musicians. But the rewards are enormous." Apart from the regular concerts, Evelyn also gives free concerts in prisons and hospitals. She also gives high priority to classes for young musicians. Ann Richlin of the Beethoven Fund for Deaf Children says, She is a shining inspiration for deaf children. They see that there is nowhere that they cannot go.
- (i) Where did Evelyn give free concerts?
(a) In Churches (b) In Schools
(c) In Auditorium (d) In Prison and Hospitals
- (ii) Evelyn is a shining inspiration to whom?
(a) Workaholics (b) Small children (c) Deaf children (d) Everyone
- (iii) What can be the synonym of 'very huge' from these lines?
(a) Harder (b) Enormous (c) Priority (d) Big
- (iv) What does Evelyn's example teach us?
(a) Never give up (b) Keep going (c) Sit and Cry (d) None of these
- 2 Emperor Aurangzeb banned the playing of a musical instrument called *pungi* in the royal residence for it had a shrill unpleasant sound. Pungi became the generic name for reeded noisemakers. Few had thought that it would one day be revived. A barber of a family of professional musicians, who had access to the royal palace, decided to improve the tonal quality of the *pungi*. He chose a pipe with a natural hollow stem that was longer and broader than the *pungi* and made seven holes on the body of the pipe. When he played on it, closing and opening some of these holes, soft and melodious sounds were produced.
- (i) How is Aurangzeb associated with Pungi?
(a) He invented it (b) Banned its playing
(c) Played in royal courts (d) Did not like its sound
- (ii) Who changed the noise maker into a melodious producer of sound?
(a) Aurangzeb (b) Shahjahan
(c) Evelyn Gilleni (d) Ustad Bismillah Khan
- (iii) How is Shehnai different from Pungi?
(a) In shape (b) In size
(c) It has more melodious sound (d) More shrill sound
- (iv) What was the profession of Bismillah Khan when he improved the Pungi?
(a) A royal musician (b) A royal chef (c) A royal astrologer (d) A royal barber

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

- 3 How did Evelyn feel the music?
- 4 How could Evelyn express the music beautifully than others?
- 5 How can it be said that Bismillah Khan's success was due to his hard work?
- 6 What did Bismillah say after getting the Bharat Ratna?

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

- 7 Despite her deafness how did Evelyn manage to learn music so beautifully?
- 8 Evelyn supported various causes apart from giving performances. What were these?
- 9 What viewpoint did Bismillah have about learning music? Why did it have an importance?
- 10 Why did Bismillah not enter the celluloid world despite getting huge success?