

Prose - Lesson : 2 The Sound of Music

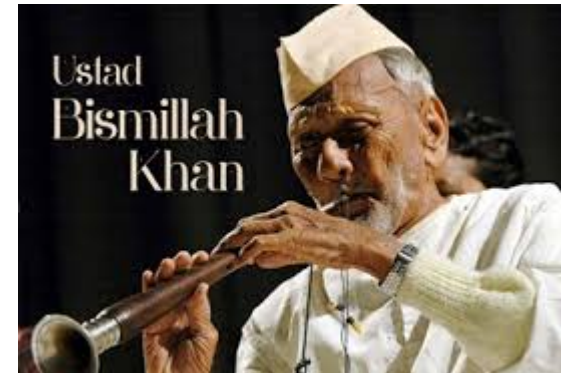


Part 1

**Evelyn Glennie Listens to
Sound without Hearing It**

“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.”

- looking younger than her seventeen



Part 2

The Shehnai of Bismillah Khan

Ustad Bismillah Khan, the shehnai maestro

Emperor Aurangzeb banned the playing of a

years - her first day at the prestigious Royal Academy of Music in London and daunting enough for any teenager fresh from a Scottish farm - aspiring musician faced a bigger challenge - deaf

musical instrument called pungli in the royal residence for it had a shrill unpleasant sound



Mother (Isabel Glennie) remembers noticing something was wrong when the eight-year-old - Evelyn was waiting to play the piano - called her name and she didn't move managed to conceal her growing deafness - she was eleven her marks had deteriorated - fitted with hearing aids and sent to a school for the deaf "Everything suddenly looked black," says Evelyn

A barber of a family of professional musicians, who had access to the royal palace, decided to improve the tonal quality of the pungli - a pipe with a natural hollow stem that was longer and broader than the pungli - made seven holes -

first played in the Shah's chambers - was played by a nai (barber), the instrument was

named the 'shehnai'

sound of the shehnai - auspicious - still played in temples - North Indian wedding

- determined to lead a normal life and pursue her interest in music - noticed a girl playing a xylophone - discouragement - percussionist Ron Forbes spotted her potential - tuning two large drums to different notes - "Don't listen through your ears," he would say, "try to sense it some other way."- I could feel the higher drum from the waist up and the lower one from the waist down.- open my mind and body to sounds and vibrations

past, the shehnai was part of the naubat - nine instruments found at royal courts(gendang Ibu and gendang anak- two big gendang, a gong, a nafiri, two serunai and two ceng-ceng from tembaga)

Ustad Bismillah Khan - brought onto the classical stage





nafiri



ceng-ceng

- toured the United Kingdom with a youth orchestra and by the time she was sixteen - auditioned for the Royal Academy of Music and scored one of the highest marks in the history of the academy - orchestral work to solo performances

five-year old - played gilli-danda- near a pond (ancient estate of Dumraon in Bihar) - regularly go - Bihariji temple to sing the Bhojpuri 'Chaita', - earn a big laddu weighing 1.25 kg, a prize given by the local Maharaja (80 yrs ago)

- a mastery of some thousand instruments
- hectic international schedule
- managed to learn French and master basic Japanese.
- Music : “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.

Born on 21 March 1916

grandfather, Rasool Bux Khan, was the shehnai nawaz of the Bhojpur king’s court

father, Paigambar Bux, and other paternal ancestors were also great shehnai players.

age of three - mother took him to his maternal uncle’s (Ali Bux) house in Benaras (now Varanasi) - Bismillah was fascinated

young apprentice’s favourite haunts - practise in solitude - the temple of Balaji and Mangala Maiya and the banks of the Ganga

- age of 14 - Allahabad Music Conference
- opening of the All India Radio in Lucknow in 1938 - often-heard shehnai player on radio

- independence on 15 August 1947 - Bismillah Khan became the first Indian to greet the nation with his shehnai - Raag Kafi from the Red Fort

First abroad trip - Afghanistan - King Zahir Shah - gifted him priceless Persian carpets and other souvenirs

Film director Vijay Bhatt - named a film after the instrument called Gunj Uthi Shehnai - Bismillah Khan's compositions, "Dil ka khilona hai toot gaya ...," turned out to be a nationwide chartbuster! (1959)

[▶ दिल का खिलौना हाए टूट गया Dil Ka khilona...](#)

Another movie - Vikram Srinivas's Kannada venture, Sanadhi Appanna (1977)

[▶ Karedaru Kelade - Sanadi Appanna Son...](#)

[▶ மறைந்திருந்து பார்க்கும் மர்மம் எ...](#)

1991 - Royal Philharmonic Society's prestigious Soloist of the Year Award percussionist James Blades, "God may have taken her hearing but he has given her back something extraordinary - free concerts in prisons and hospitals.

Additional Information:

Born - 19 July 1965

Glennie's awards include:

- Royal Philharmonic Society's Best Soloist of the Year 1991
- Best Chamber Music Performance in the Grammy Awards of 1989
- Scot of the Year 1982
- Queen's Commendation prize for all round excellence, 1985
- Leonardo da Vinci International Art Award, 1987
- Scotswoman of the Decade, 1990

- first Indian - invited to perform at the prestigious Lincoln Centre Hall in the United States of America
- took part in the World Exposition in Montreal, in the Cannes Art Festival and in the Osaka Trade Fair
- an auditorium in Teheran (capital of Iran) was named after him — Tahar Mosiquee Ustaad Bismillah Khan
- National awards - Padma Shri, the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Vibhushan
- 2001 - highest civilian award in India — the Bharat Ratna - " Teach your children music, this is Hindustan's richest tradition; even the West is now coming to learn our music."

fondly called - Khansaab

- Best Studio and Live Percussionist from Rhythm Magazine 1998, 2000, 2002, 2003 & 2004
- Walpole Medal of Excellence, 2002
- Fellowship of the Royal Academy of Music, 2002
- Honorary Doctorate from Heriot-Watt University, 2002
- Honorary Fellowship from Homerton College, Cambridge, 2016
- Musical America Instrumentalist of the Year, 2003
- Sabian Lifetime Achievement Award, 2006
- Percussive Arts Society: Hall of Fame – November 2008
- Polar Music Prize, 2015
- Best Classical Instrumental Solo in the Grammy Awards of 2014
- Léonie Sonning Music Prize, 2023

the most wonderful towns of the world - Benaras (Varanasi, and Dumraon

Died: 21 August 2006