

BEEHIVE

STD-IX

SUBJECT- LITERATURE

TOPIC- THE SOUND OF MUSIC

PERIOD-3

CHANGING YOUR TOMORROW

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THE SHEHNAI OF BISMILLAH KHAN



HISTORY OF SHEHNAI

Emperor Aurangzeb banned the playing of pungi in the palace. The reason was that it had a sharp and unpleasant sound. A barber thought to improve it. He chose a pipe with a natural hollow stem. He made seven holes on its body. He played on it closing and opening some of these holes. It produced a sweet sound. He played it before the royalty. It needed a name. So it was named after the player. He was a 'nai' (barber). It was first played in the Shah's chambers.



SHEHNAI AND BISMILLAH KHAN

The sound of the shehnai was considered auspicious. So it is played in temples and at weddings in north India. Earlier it was part of the traditional music groups. Ustad Bismillah Khan has brought it onto the classical stage.



BISMILLAH'S CHILDHOOD

As a five-year old Bismillah Khan played gilli-danda near a pond in Dumraon in Bihar. He would go to the nearby Bihariji temple. There he would sing the Bhojpuri chaita. At the end he would earn a big laddu weighing 1.25 kg. It was on behalf of the local Maha-raj. This happened 80 years ago. This little boy later earned the Bharat Ratna. It is the highest civilian honour.



BISMILLAH KHAN'S BIRTH AND PARENTS

Bismillah Khan was born on March 21, 1916 in a family of musicians in Bihar. His grand-father Rasool Bux Khan was the shehnai- nawaz of the Bhojpur king's court. His father Paigambar Bux and other ancestors were great shehnai players.

A VIDEO TO CHERISH

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZ-l849fXlo>



BISMILLAH AS YOUNG SINGER

The young boy Bismillah Khan took to music early in life. At three, his mother took him to his maternal uncle's house in Benaras. He was attracted towards his uncle's practise the shehnai. Soon he started going with his uncle Ali Bux to the Vishnu temple in Varanasi to play the shehnai. Soon he started practising the playing of the instrument. For years the temple of Balaji and Mangla Maiya and the banks of the Ganga became the places where he could practise. The flowing waters of the Ganga inspired him to invent new raagas.



VOCABULARY

- banned: prohibited
- shrill: very sharp
- unpleasant: something that you dislike
- revived: brought back to live.
- tonal quality: sound
- hollow: empty from inside.
- auspicious: promising to bring good fortune
- indispensable: without which a piece of work cannot be done, something which is necessary
- Ensembles (pronounced 'onsomble'): things (here, instruments) considered as a group
- paternal ancestors: ancestors of the father
- Captivated: attracted
- apprentice: trainee
- recital: performance
- haunt: place you like come, where you like to visit many times a day
- solitude: being alone, single
- on end: for a very long time without stopping, continuously

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