

BEEHIVE

STD-IX

SUBJECT- LITERATURE

TOPIC- THE SOUND OF MUSIC

PERIOD-4

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THE SHEHNAI OF BISMILLAH KHAN

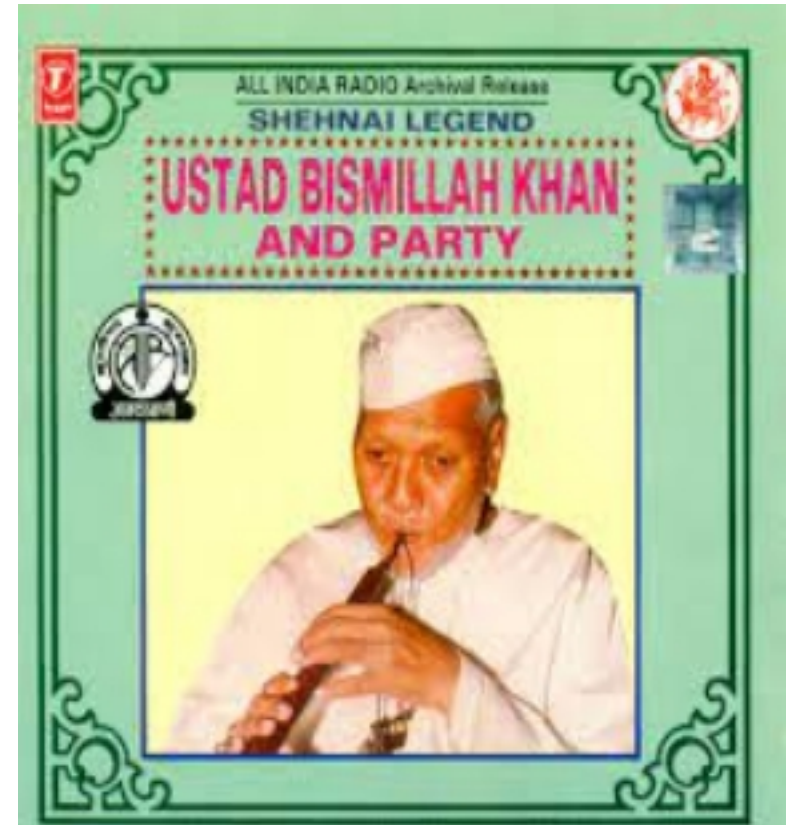


RISE OF BISMILLAH

At the age of 14 Bismillah accompanied his uncle to the Allahabad Music Conference. The opening of the All India Radio in Lucknow in 1938 became a big break for him. He became a shehnai player on radio.

VIDEO LINK-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=md3q7jwvM88>



BISMILLAH KHAN AS THE FIRST INDIAN

Bismillah Khan became the first Indian to greet the nation with his shehnai on August 15, 1947. He played Raag Kafi from Red Fort to people like Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.



BISMILLAH KHAN PLAYS FOR CINEMA

Bismillah Khan has given many memorable performances both in India and abroad. His first trip abroad was to Afghanistan. King Zahir Shah was deeply impressed by his shehnai. He gave him priceless Persian car-pets. Film director Vijay Bhatt was greatly impressed. He named his film Gunj Uthi Shehnai after the instrument. The film was a hit and his composition Dil ka khilona hai toot gaya became a record breaker..



CINEMA WAS NOT BISMILLAH'S FANCY

Bismillah Khan's music in films didn't go beyond Vijay Bhatt's *Gunj Uthi Shehnai* and Vikram Srinivas's Kannada film *Sanadhi Apanna*. He found the film world artificial and glamorous. He could not compromise with it.



BISMILLAH KHAN'S AWARDS

Awards came in plenty for him. He became the first Indian to perform at the Lincoln Centre Hall in the USA. He took part in the World Exposition in Montreal, in the Cannes Art Festival and in the Osaka Trade Fair. 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.



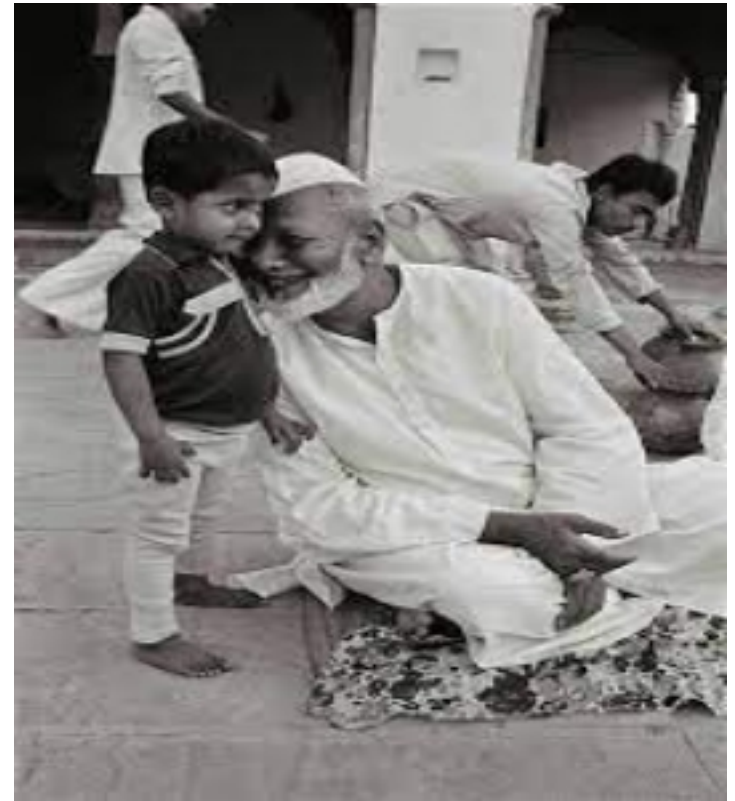
BISMILLAH KHAN AWARDED BHARAT RATNA

In 2001 he was awarded India's highest civilian award the 'Bharat Ratna'. At this he said, "Teach your children music. This is Hindustan's richest tradition : even the West is now coming to learn our music".



BISMILLAH KHAN'S LOVE FOR HIS ROOTS

Bismillah Khan has travelled all over the world. But he is greatly fond of Benaras and Dumraon. A student of his once wanted him to head a shehnai school in the USA. He promised to recreate an atmosphere of Benaras by making temples there. But Khansaab asked him if he would transport River Ganga there. He says that whenever he is abroad, he yearns to see Hindustan. While in Mumbai he thinks of only Varanasi and the holy Ganga. And while in Varanasi, he misses the 'mattha' in Dumraon



BISMILLAH KHAN'S LIFE- A GREAT EXAMPLE

Ustad Bismillah Khan's life is a perfect example of the rich cultural heritage of India. It accepts that a Muslim like him can play the shehnai every morning at the Kashi Vishwanath temple.



VOCABULARY

- taken in by: attracted or charmed by
- souvenirs: things given in memory of a place, person or event
- chartbuster: record breaker
- celluloid: old fashioned way of referring to films
- yearning – longing, having a desire for something
- venture: project that often involves risk, something which has a lot of risk
- Emphasis: to lay stress on something
- thick and fast: he got a lot of awards and was recognized at many places
- conferred: given, usually an award or a degree
- coveted: much desired
- replicating: making a copy of something
- devout: believing strongly in a religion and obeying its laws and following its practices

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