

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Bismillah Khan

Date

Page

21

Questions and Answers:-

① Tick the right answer

1. The (Shehnai, [✓]pungi) was a 'receded noisemaker'.
2. (Bismillah Khan, [✓]A Barber, [✓]Ali Bux) transformed the pungi into a shehnai.
3. Bismillah Khan's paternal ancestors were (Barbers, [✓]professional musicians).
4. Bismillah Khan learnt to play the shehnai from (Ali [✓]Bux, Paigambar Bux, [✓]Ustad Faiyaz Khan).
5. Bismillah Khan's first trip abroad was to (Afghanistan, [✓]USA, Canada).

② Mark tick related to Bismillah Khan's feelings about the items listed below.

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 Durrachon.		✓	

③ Answer these questions in 30-40 words.

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

Ans. Emperor Aurangzeb banned the playing of musical instrument pungi in royal residence because it had a shrill unpleasant sound.

2. How is a shehnai different from a pungi?

Ans. Shehnai is an improved version of pungi as it has better tonal quality than pungi. It is a natural hollow stem pipe that is longer and broader than a pungi. It has seven holes on the body of the pipe.

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. Ustad Bismillah Khan changed the tradition by bringing this instrument onto the classical stage.

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

Ans. Bismillah Khan got his big break in 1938 when

he played shrehaai on radio on the occasion of the opening of the All India Radio in Lucknow. Soon he became an often heard player on radio.

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

Ans: On 15 August 1947, Bismillah Khan played shehnai at the Red Fort. The event was historical because India got independence from the British rule on that day.

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

Ans: Bismillah Khan refused to start a shehnai school in the USA because he did not want to stay away from India. He was really fond of Benares, the River Ganga and Durgam.

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

Ans: 1) Bismillah Khan refused one of his student's offer to start a shehnai school in USA because of his immense love for Benares, River Ganga and Durgam.

ii) The second instance is when Khansab was asked by Shekhar Gupta about moving to Pakistan during the partition, he said that he would never leave Benares.

Thinking about language:-

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

1. The school sports team hopes to win the match.
(What does it hope to do?)

2. We all want to stay happy and healthy.
(What we all want to do?)

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

4. The authorities permitted us to start the construction work. (What did the authority permit us to do?)

5. The musician decided to compose a music dedicating to COVID warriors. (What the musician decided to do?)

② From the text on Bismillah Khan, find the words and phrases that match the definitions.

1. the home of royal people the royal residence
2. the state of being alone solitude
3. a part which is absolutely necessary indispensable
4. to do something not done before invent
5. without much effort effortlessly
6. quickly and in large quantities fast and thick

③ Tick the right answer.

1. When something is revived, it (remains dead / lives again)
2. When a govt. bans something, it wants it (stopped / started)
3. When something is considered auspicious (welcome it / avoid it)
4. When we take to something, we find it
(boring / interesting)
5. When you appreciate something, you (find it good and useful / find it of no use).
6. When you replicate something, you do it (for the first time / for the second time)
7. When we come to terms with something, it is (still upsetting / no longer upsetting).