

Select Readings, Second Edition Intermediate, Chapter 8 Test

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Inspiring Musicians

Ludwig van Beethoven was one of the world's most famous and influential composers of classical music. His music has been played all over the world for nearly 200 years. But did you know that Beethoven, who composed a total of nine symphonies during his lifetime, actually lost his hearing while still in his 20s? He went on to write *Symphony No. 2, op. 36 (D Major)*, *Symphony No. 3 Eroica, op. 55 (E flat Major)*, *Symphony No. 4, op. 60 (B flat Major)*, and other great masterpieces after he became deaf!

In fact, many of the world's most famous musicians, composers, and performers have overcome physical limitations and various obstacles. Here's a short list of some of the most well-known musicians and popular performers who are physically challenged.

Itzhak Perlman is a violin virtuoso¹ born in 1945. He received his training at the Academy of Music in Tel Aviv before continuing his studies at Juilliard School in the United States. In 1964, he won the prestigious Leventritt Competition; he has also won several Grammy Awards and appeared on various television shows. Perlman had polio² when he was four years old, resulting in the permanent paralysis³ of his legs.

Ray Charles, who died in 2004, was one of America's most beloved singers, composers, and pianists. He has won dozens of Grammy Awards, is in the Georgia Music Hall of Fame, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and the Jazz Hall of Fame. He also helped racially integrate country and pop music during the 1960s, and a movie of his life was made in 2004. Charles was completely blind from the age of seven due to glaucoma⁴.

Shawn Dale Barnett, despite being deaf since his birth in 1963, was a drummer who owned his own recording company, and performed at both deaf and hearing functions. Among his many accomplishments, Barnett wrote a song for Gallaudet University⁵ students when one of the students was murdered in the fall of 2000. Barnett passed away in February 2003.

Evelyn Glennie, a virtuoso percussionist⁶ from Scotland, has been hearing-impaired since she was 12. She was the first full-time solo percussionist in 20th-century western society. Glennie tours extensively and performs with a wide variety of orchestras and contemporary musicians, giving over 100 concerts a year, as well as master classes and 'music in schools' performances. She received a Grammy Award for Best Chamber Music Performance in 1989.

¹ **virtuoso** a very skilled musician

² **polio** a disease that affected many children until a vaccine was invented in the 1950s

³ **paralysis** inability to move

⁴ **glaucoma** a condition that causes blindness

⁵ **Gallaudet University** a special university in Washington, D.C. for deaf and hard-of-hearing students

⁶ **percussionist** a person who plays drums or similar instruments

1. The reading is primarily about _____.
 - A. the different types of awards musicians can receive
 - B. how Beethoven impacted the lives of many other musicians
 - C. a number of musicians who have had different disabilities
 - D. what has inspired many musicians to follow their dreams
2. How many symphonies did Ludwig van Beethoven compose?
 - A. Three
 - B. Nine
 - C. About 20
 - D. 200
3. Which of the following is not mentioned in the reading about Itzhak Perlman?
 - A. He studied at the Academy of Music in Tel Aviv.
 - B. He studied music at Juilliard in the United States.
 - C. He won the Leventritt Competition.
 - D. He has released several violin albums over his career.
4. In paragraph 3, “prestigious” is closest in meaning to _____.
 - A. highly respected
 - B. very expensive
 - C. intelligent
 - D. musical
5. Which of the following is not listed as one of Ray Charles’ occupations?
 - A. Singer
 - B. Pianist
 - C. Movie producer
 - D. Composer
6. What does “functions” mean in paragraph 5?
 - A. Charities
 - B. Events
 - C. Works
 - D. Exams
7. When did Shawn Dale Barnett die?
 - A. 1963
 - B. 2000
 - C. 2003
 - D. 2004
8. Which of the following is not mentioned about Evelyn Glennie?
 - A. She gives over 100 concerts a year in schools.
 - B. She received a Grammy Award in 1989.
 - C. She is a solo percussionist.
 - D. She plays both with orchestras and contemporary musicians.
9. Which musician in the reading was born with a disability?
 - A. Itzhak Perlman
 - B. Ray Charles
 - C. Shawn Dale Barnett
 - D. Evelyn Glennie

10. All of the musicians below have received Grammar Awards except _____.
- A. Itzhak Perlman
 - B. Ray Charles
 - C. Shawn Dale Barnett
 - D. Evelyn Glennie