

Nicola Benedetti

A PASSION FOR

Music



• When I was young, music wasn't very important in our house. Then, when I was four, I started playing the violin. In my first lesson, I was so happy, I couldn't stop crying.

My dad, Gio, was always busy. He was very hard-working. His parents were poor, so he wanted to give me and my sister everything. I like hard work too, and I know what I want – if someone says to me "You can't do that", I think "Oh yes I can!" That's very like my dad.

But my dad's a businessman, and I'm an artist. Money is very important to him, but for me, success isn't the same as earning lots of money. He likes the music I play, but he doesn't like classical music very much. I teach him about music, and he tells me about business.

My sister and I are very close. We sometimes play together – not professionally, but at family occasions like weddings and at Christmas.

I live for my work. I never want to stop.
Music is my life. •



Answer trying to form sentences not one or two words

1. Was music important in her family?

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2. How old was Nicola when she could play the violin?

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3. Did her father work hard?

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4. Were her grandparents rich or poor?

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5. Is money important to Nicola and her father?

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6. Does her father like classical music?

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7. What does she teach her father? What does he teach?

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8. When does she play the violin with her sister?

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9. Do you think your parents can influence in your decision to go for a hobby? Why or why not?

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Gio Benedetti

A PASSION FOR

Business



• I was born in a small village near Lucca in Italy. We were poor but happy. When I was ten, I came to Scotland to live with my uncle. It was very difficult.

When I was 16, there was a beautiful car – a Jaguar – in the shops but I couldn't afford it. It was too expensive. So I started a business to make money – a dry-cleaning business. Soon there were 15 shops. By the time I was 19, I could afford the Jaguar. That was a very good day!

Nicola was always independent, like me. She could play the violin when she was four. Now she plays concerts all over the world. I am so proud of her. She practises for seven hours a day. Scotland is so proud of her. Everybody knows her now.

I can't play any musical instruments. I like country and western music, but not classical. Nicola knows what she wants. She has a passion to succeed, like me, and she works very hard to get it. When she plays the violin, she's passionate – that's the Italian in her. When I see her play, I often cry. I can't help it. I'm very sentimental. •



Answer trying to form sentences not one or two words

1. Where was Gio born?

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2. Why couldn't he buy the Jaguar car?

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3. What was Gio's business?

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4. How old was Nicola when she could play the violin?

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5. Can Gio play a musical instrument?

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6. What music does he like? What doesn't he like?

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7. Does Nicola work hard?

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8. Why does he cry?

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