

Dame Evelyn Glennie - Incredible Greatness Lecture

It was a real pleasure to host Dame Evelyn on Tuesday evening and I greatly appreciate all those that attended.

She gave a fantastic talk about her life, career and what was particularly insightful was key important aspects of her experience and how relevant they to our lives, regardless of our personal or professional backgrounds.

I have set out some bits but also included her note that provides more details on her Foundation and some of the incredible work that she does. If you do have an interest in further conversation, please follow up directly with her office. We will be providing support to her Foundation as well.



Short notes

- Dame Evelyn brought new audiences to this music
- Key to really tap into passion and to develop and evolve and gave examples of how proms adopted percussion led by Dame Evelyn
- Persuaded composers to expand horizons
- The collection is core to the foundation and way to focus on building teamwork across the platform and how “listening impacts how we live”
- How do you change behaviour of what you hear - Gave examples of how musicians need to understand how one hears
- How COVID effected so much of the world was reduced to “360 degree listening” because all was on camera and so much was missed
- The impact of observation – how overall experience helps us to connect to the world to create the unity of listening.
- **Key ingredients to being successful? Key is determination, Listening to oneself, Learning from disappointment being comfortable in your own skin, Crux of all decisions is yourself**
- You can be efficient instrumentalist but learning across all instruments/ exposing oneself to multiple components
- “The art is to create one’s own opportunity”
- Q: what is the enjoyment you have in music? A: Personal active participation when doing itself, actually playing, best experience

- Q: Obstacles? A: Example of Royal Academy who said no but was concerned re deaf participant in orchestra. Dame Evelyn pushed hard and was given 2nd audition, which she succeeded given great teachers and determination as she was more of a holistically trained percussionist.
- Q: how do you consider your listening? A: Resonance is key: Think though how much you hear low/high sound of frequency throughout the day. prefers only 20 minute playing as it allows balance and allows for an even better positive performance
- Q: observation Dame Evelyn present and speaks melodically with precision, and real impact, why? How to train to do this? A: Gave examples on how deaf children are trained to understand vibrations and how to learn pitch, so all building blocks to develop and how resonance

Bio



Dame Evelyn Glennie is the first person in history to create and sustain a full-time career as a solo percussionist, performing worldwide with the greatest orchestras and artists. Evelyn's hearing declined from the age of 8 but she became a proficient pianist and later was introduced to percussion at the age of 12. She gained a place at The Royal Academy of Music in London at the age of 16 where she studied percussion and piano. She quickly realised there was a life for percussion outside the orchestra and became determined to define a new genre of solo percussion.

Evelyn paved the way for orchestras globally to feature percussion concerti when she played the first percussion concerto in the history of the Proms at the Royal Albert Hall in 1992. Evelyn has commissioned over 200 new works for solo percussion and has recorded over 40 CDs. She

regularly provides masterclasses and consultations to inspire the next generation of musicians.

Leading 1000 drummers, Evelyn had a prominent role in the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games which also featured a new instrument, the Glennie Concert Aluphone.

Evelyn was awarded an OBE in 1993 and has over 100 international awards to date, including 2 GRAMMY's, the Polar Music Prize and the Companion of Honour. She was appointed as the first female President of Help Musicians, and since 2021 she has been Chancellor of Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, Scotland. Dame Evelyn Glennie is also an Ambassador for the PTI (formerly The Prince's Teaching Institute).

Evelyn is the curator for The Evelyn Glennie Collection which includes in excess of 3,500 percussion instruments. The film *Touch the Sound*, TED Talk and her book *Listen World!* are key testimonies to her unique and innovative approach to sound-creation. Through her mission to Teach the World to Listen she aims to improve communication and social cohesion by encouraging everyone to discover new ways of listening in order to inspire, to create, to engage and to empower.