




Deaf Awareness Week

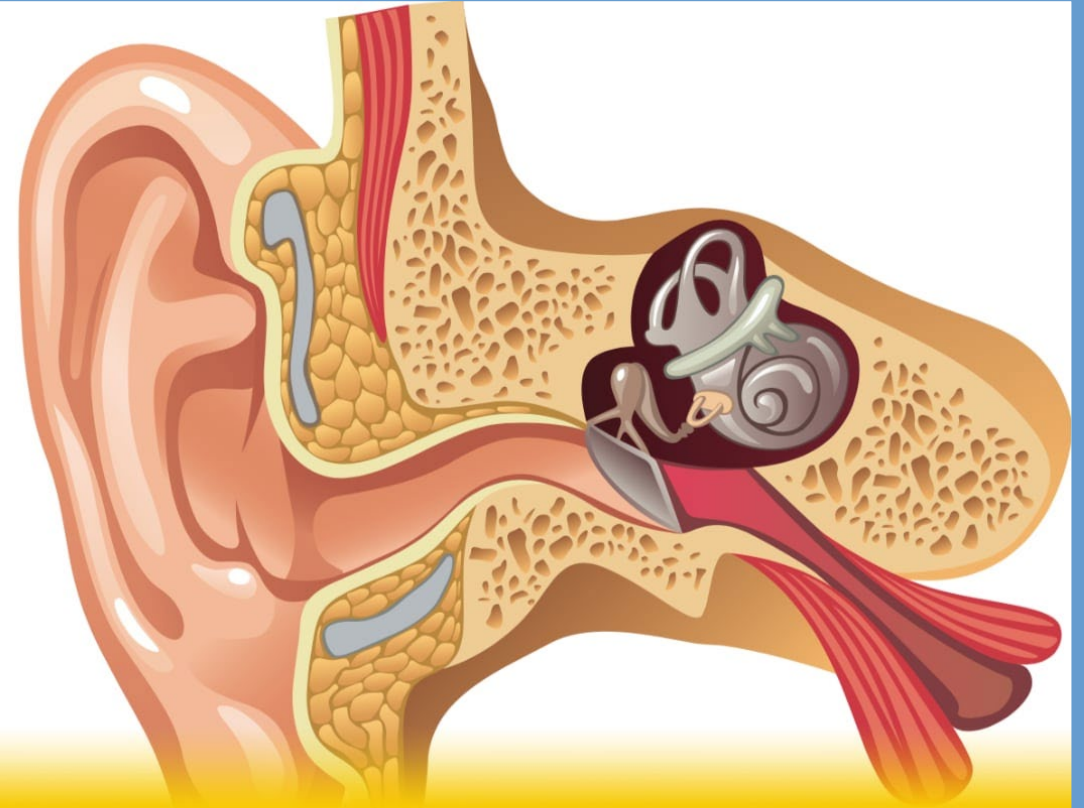
Composer of the Week

A stylized illustration of a tree where the canopy is a large, light-yellow thought bubble with a blue outline. The tree trunk is brown and textured. Surrounding the tree are various colorful musical symbols, including treble and bass clefs, notes, and a blue electric guitar. In the bottom left corner, there are three blue circles of increasing size and a blue square.

Why is it important to
recognise and
celebrate **Deaf**
Awareness Week?

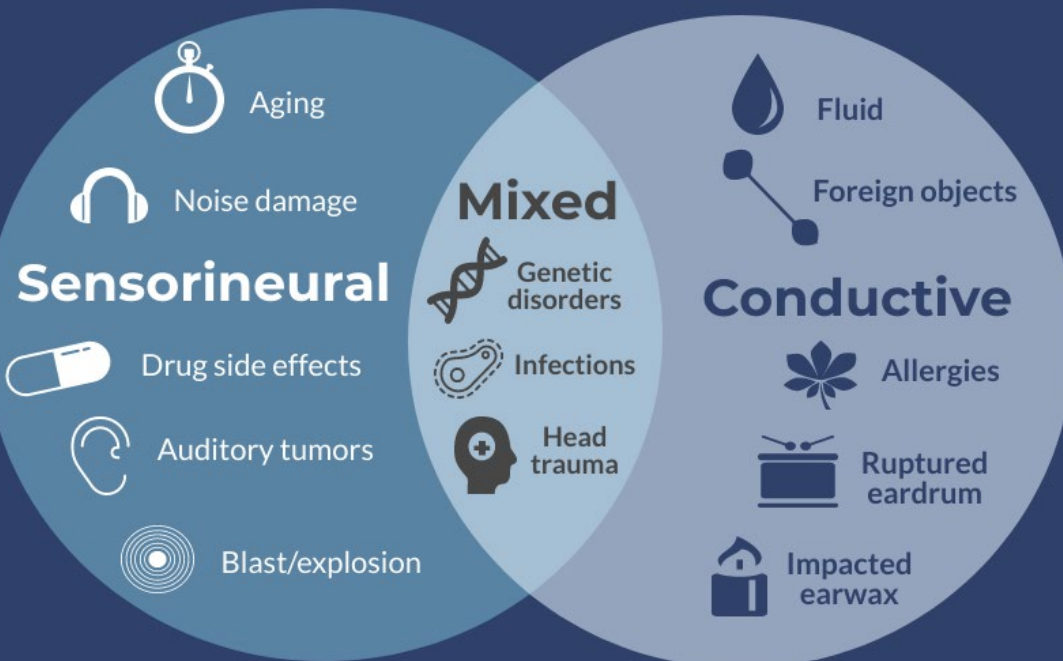
Hearing involves intricate processes where sound waves enter the ear, causing vibrations in the eardrum and tiny bones in the middle ear.

These vibrations are turned into electrical signals in the inner ear, then sent to the brain, where they are interpreted as sound.



HOW DOES THE EAR WORK?

Types of hearing loss



Deafness varies widely from **mild hearing loss** to **profound deafness**, where individuals may hear no sound at all."

Causes of deafness include **genetics, aging, exposure to loud noise, and certain illnesses or medications.**

Beethoven, one of history's greatest **composers**, began losing his hearing in his late 20s, progressing to almost total deafness."

Despite his profound deafness, Beethoven composed some of his most important works during this period, including the celebrated **Ninth Symphony**.





Beethoven's Ninth Symphony is particularly remarkable as he was completely deaf when he composed it, relying solely on his **inner musical intuition.**



Dame Ethel Smyth, a pioneering English **composer** and **suffragette**, faced significant societal challenges but continued to compose and conduct even as her hearing deteriorated.

Smyth's operas and orchestral works often carried themes of **liberty** and **defiance**, mirroring her fight for women's rights.



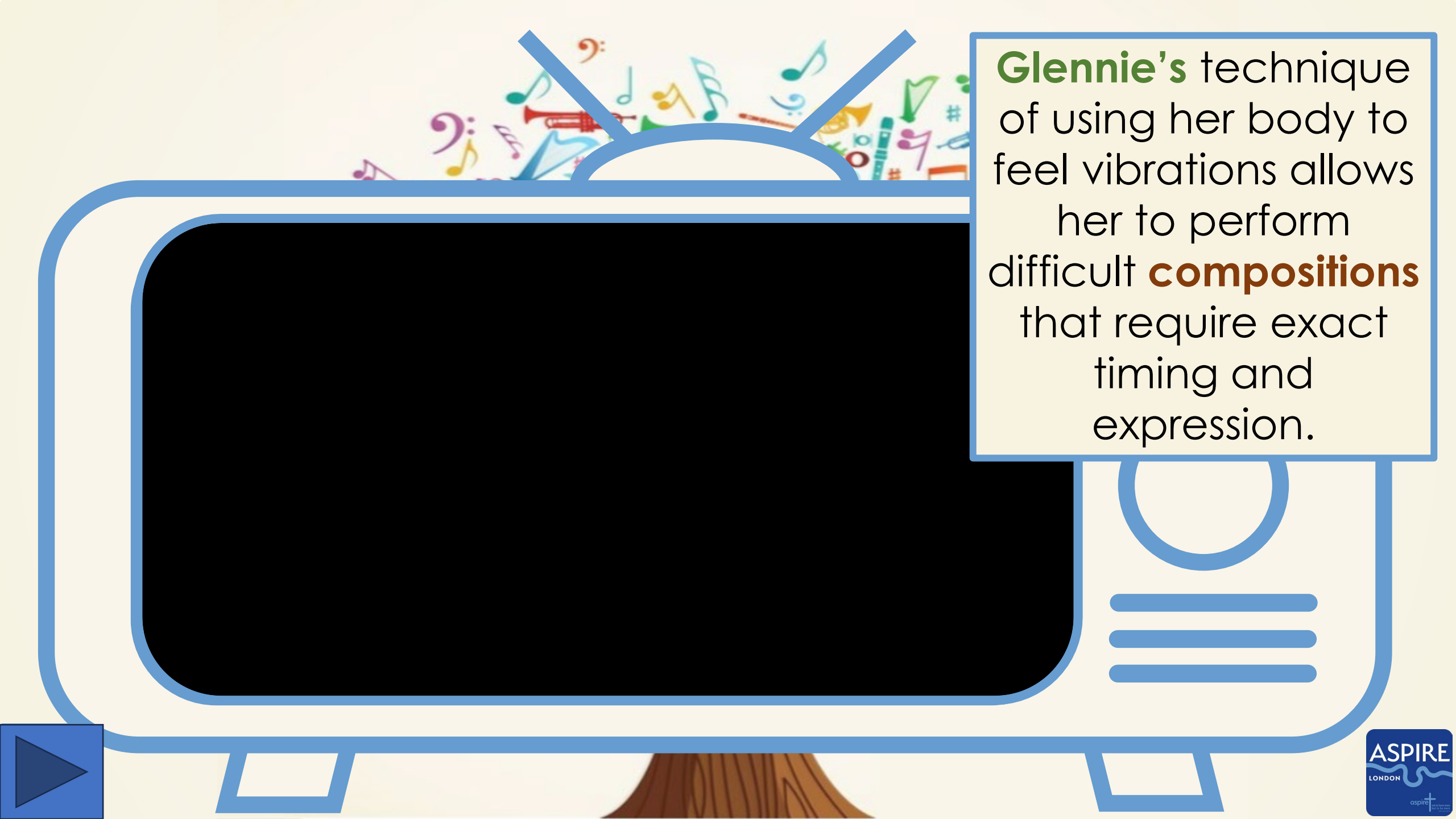
Smyth famously **conducted** an **orchestra** of her fellow **suffragettes** using her toothbrush from a prison window after being jailed for her **activism**.





Evelyn Glennie, a globally renowned solo **percussionist** from Scotland, lost her hearing at age 12 but developed a unique method to sense music through **vibrations**.

She performs barefoot to feel the music better through the floor and her body, illustrating a profound connection to sound beyond hearing.



Glennie's technique of using her body to feel vibrations allows her to perform difficult **compositions** that require exact timing and expression.

Mandy Harvey, an American **jazz** and **pop singer**, lost her hearing due to a connective tissue disorder but has continued her music career using **visual tuners** to align her **pitch**.

Her ability to sing **pitch-perfectly** without hearing is a testament to her exceptional musicality and muscle memory.





Harvey's performance on **'America's Got Talent'** where she sang flawlessly without hearing herself, earned her a **golden buzzer**, captivating millions.





Deaf from a young age, **Sean Forbes** is an American **rapper** who has dedicated his career to making music accessible to the deaf community through **sign language** in his videos.

His innovative use of visuals and **bass vibrations** allows deaf and hard of hearing fans to experience his music.



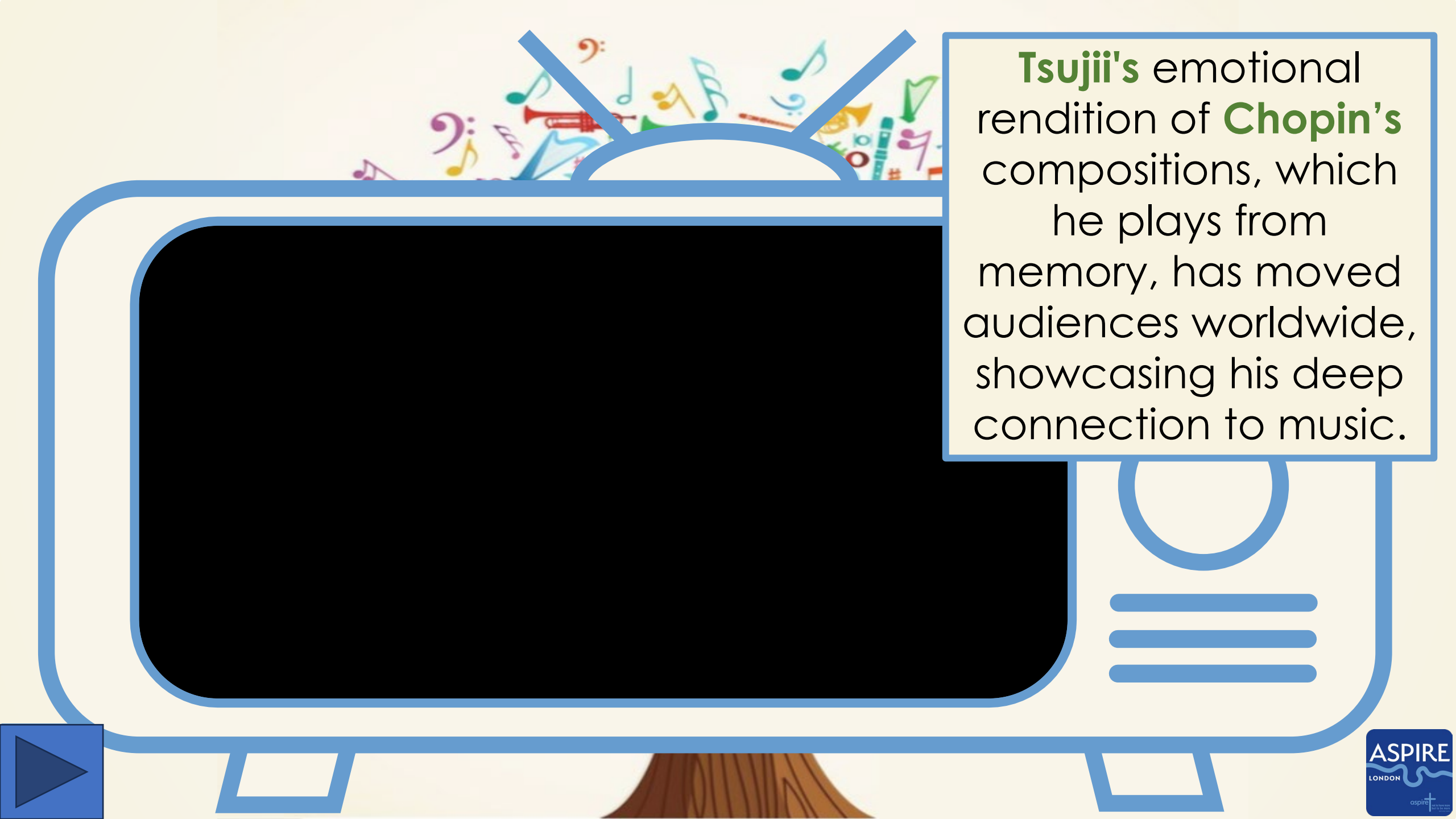
Forbes' music videos often feature a **visual rhythm track** or **signing interpreters**, ensuring that the **rhythm** and **lyrics** are accessible to all viewers.



Blind and partially deaf,
Nobuyuki Tsujii is a
celebrated Japanese
pianist who has not let his
impairments hinder his
musical career.

He has an extraordinary
ability to **memorise**
music by ear and **touch**
and has won top
international piano
competitions.



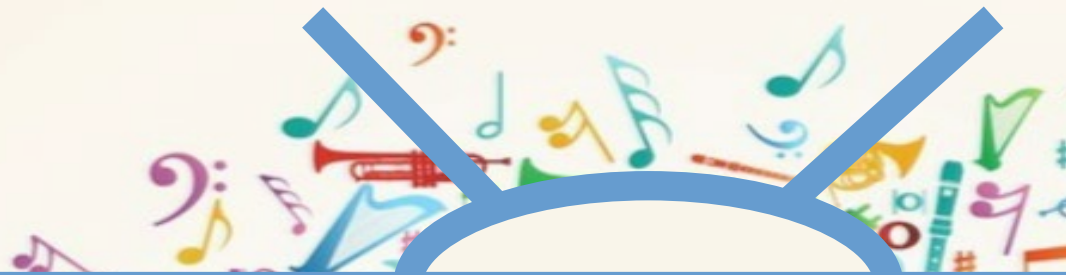


Tsuji's emotional rendition of **Chopin's** compositions, which he plays from memory, has moved audiences worldwide, showcasing his deep connection to music.



Aliénette Coldfire, a Filipino singer who is legally blind and has significant hearing loss, finished third in '**France's Got Talent**' with her powerful voice and emotional performances.

She uses her remaining senses to deliver performances that connect with international audiences.

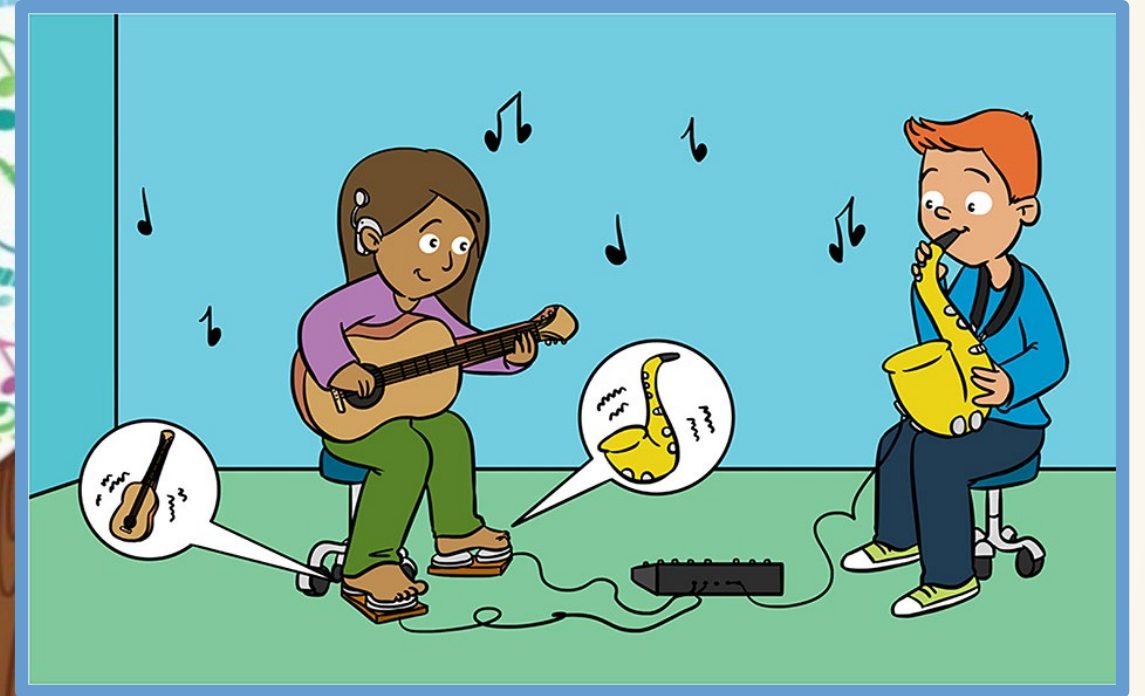


Coldfire's rendition of **'La Vie En Rose'** on the show brought many to tears and highlighted her ability to overcome her physical challenges through music.



Musicians with **hearing impairments** often use innovative strategies like **visual tuners, tactile sound systems,** and **digital software** that visualizes music.

These tools help translate sound into formats that can be felt or seen, enabling musicians to engage with their art.





Supportive communities and advancements in technology play crucial roles in empowering musicians with hearing impairments.

From hearing aids that optimize remaining hearing to online platforms that facilitate collaboration, these resources are invaluable.

If you liked this music, then try these songs that were also created by hearing impaired musicians



DEAF AWARENESS



Vltava (The Moldau)

Bedřich Smetana

Requiem, Op. 48: In Paradisum

Gabriel Fauré

"Der Lindenbaum" by Schubert

Thomas Quasthoff

God Only Knows

The Beach Boys

