

Read the text.

1

A passion for success

Nicola Benedetti is a world-famous violinist. She was the **BBC Young Musician of the Year** in 2004 when she was 16. She lives in Chiswick, west London, near her sister, Stephanie, who is also a violinist. Their father, **Gio Benedetti**, is a businessman. He lives with his wife, Francesca, in Scotland.



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.'

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.'