**Name**: Borys KOWALCZYK,

**Gender**: male

**Age**: 8

**Country**: POLAND

**Name of the EBU national member processing the entry**: Polish Association of the Blind

**Number of words in the national language**: 815

**Braille in Music and Art**

My name is Borys and I am eight years old. I attend second class of the primary school and the second class of the primary music school.

Since September 2018, I attend guitar classes and music notation. In the music school, I also learn about well-known composers, music history and everything that is related to music.

I also started learning to play the piano on private lessons and it is hard for me to decide which of these two instruments I like most. Many instruments I haven’t played so far. My favourite one is saxophone that makes fantastic sounds. My teachers tell me I am too young to start practising.

Because of my passion to music, I’d like to share with you my opinion about the importance of Braille in music for those who can’t read standard print like me.

When I started my education at music school, I learned about music notation essential for every musician. Reading music gives me many possibilities: to hear the music and to find out sounds a piece of music is composed of. This is especially important for me because it helps me learn sounds of a particular melody. Braille notation helps me be independent like my sighted peers are. I can remind a chosen piece of music or I can learn new songs that I really like the most.

Learning new tunes is not only my hobby. I really like composing own melodies and that never makes me bored. Reading music in Braille is important so that I can note my ideas, present them to others, replay or modify them which can finally turn into a totally new song.

Reading in Braille gives me a chance to learn music the way my sighted peers do. I attend a subject ear training to practice notation. I have a separate notebook for practising how to write music and I am really proud of it as I am quite good at it. Writing in Braille helps me catch up with my sighted peers, so that I can discuss with them about what I have learnt already.

I am only 8 now but in few years I’ll be better at Braille notation. I know that it is possible to write in Braille math symbols, chemistry and physics formulas.

I am really happy to use Braille. Music is my passion. Despite difficulties in writing in Braille, I really enjoy attending music school. When I grow up, I may compose my own music, I don’t know it so far. For sure I will work on music. I am also happy that my music teachers show me how to write music, it makes me independent. Despite my residual vision, it is easier for me to write in Braille than print.

Previously, I didn’t like Braille typing but now it is my favourite thing. I sometimes write short stories. I have a blind pen pal with whom I share my thoughts on Braille notation, of course in Braille. I know different symbols like sharp, flat, natural, etc. and I can note down all tones. I also create my own lyrics and match them with selected melody. Singing my own songs makes me really happy.

I have an electronic multifunctional piano, the same sighted peers use, to create my own music. I haven’t discovered other functions so maybe I’ll mark them in Braille which will be helpful for me to master my device. Many information are displayed so I can’t see them well enough. If a piano plays a song I want to learn, it informs me in English about its parts. I can select songs browsing the list I cannot see neither. I can also attach a mike and sing along with the selected melody. I don’t have a mike yet so I don’t use this function.

I don’t know art so well as music. I’m sure that a blind person gets a lot of help from Braille. I’ve heard once on TV about the exhibition for the blind. I’d like to visit it. I imagine that all pieces of art have Braille description.

I dream of becoming a famous musician and give concerts all over the world. If I become a well-known artist, I’ll write my own biography in Braille, so that every blind kid will have a chance to read it and believe that dreams come true. You need be strongly convinced about that and never give up. This is my true motto.