Braille and Music

Amir GUMEROV (Russia)

Amazing, magic Braille!!! Long live the genius who created this language for us!

I was born sighted. I went to ordinary kinder-garden … My mom taught me to read in my early childhood and it became my favourite occupation. I remember happy family evenings when I read out loud to my parents and a newly born brother. It was really a happy time.

Then I began to lose sight. It was more difficult for me to read. My parents printed out fairy-tales for me in large print so that I could continue reading.

Then out of the blue a terrible diagnosis … my sight was disappearing rapidly. Doctors, hospitals, chemo … everything was useless. The world transformed into darkness.

I was scared. I had no idea. What’s to be done? How to live? What to read?

My mom was crying. She switched on audio books and music to entertain me. We had no idea about the life of people without sight, it seemed to us that it was the end of life.

When we learned about a school for the blind where using a special writing system invented by Louis Braille long ago children get education, we acquired Hope! I could study again, I could read again!

A new school, classmates, teachers, communication. A new life began!

But I had a dream, which seemed to not to come true… Music!

From early childhood I was keen on classical music: Mozart, Vivaldi, Chaikovsky, Glinka…the sounds of their compositions were taking me into another world – the world of harmony and inspiration… Before going to bed mom turned on masterpieces of classical music for me and I fell in love with them with all my heart!

Once on the eve of the New Year a philanthropist, the director of a bread-making factory, wanted to realise my dream. Mom knew that I was dreaming about a toy harmonica. Having learned about this the philanthropist decided to do more – he presented me with a real harmonica!

No words to describe my admiration! I tried to play be ear, examined new shiny buttons.

Mom found designations of buttons with figures and music notes on the internet for me, written in figures. But she was far from music and could not teach me real notes. I had a progress! The first couplets! The first songs for children. Magical strains were coming from the instrument and they were extracted by me. But of course, it was not enough. I had a desire to develop, learn new musical pieces. But how can a blind person learn notes?

And an amazing discovery again. One can learn music texts with the help of Braille!

Louis Braille changed my life drastically with his invention. Being a musician himself he worked out a system for writing music. When I learned about it, I realised that nothing prevented me from absorbing into a wonderful world of music!

I was ten when a watershed meeting with the teachers occurred, the teachers who took the trouble to teach music to a blind boy. They opened new horizon for me.

It is thanks to Braille visually impaired people have unlimited possibilities! We can learn science, master foreign languages, read fiction…. and even learn music!!!

There is a wonderful library in our town, where we can printed music of different composers to master them.

Thanks to Braille I study at a musical school together with sighted children.

Thanks to Braille I compose music and participate in contests of your composers.

Braille made my dream come true. And again we gather together with the whole family in the evenings and I play the piano and the clarinet performing pieces of great composers.

I know that they are happy these moments. And are very proud of me! We forget difficulties caused by lack of vision, since there is nothing impossible for us! Because we have Braille and Music!