

Reading and writing

A TALENTED FAMILY

1. Are you talented? Underline the things you can do. Which can you do very well?

I can ski I can speak a foreign language
I can draw I can play a musical instrument
I can cook I can take beautiful pictures
I can

2. Look at the photos of the Kanneh-Mason family and read the introduction.

- How many children are there in the family? How many boys? How many girls?
- What musical instruments can you see?
- Why were 2015 and 2018 special for them?
- Why does their mother say that they are successful?

3. Read about the family. All these statements are incorrect. Correct them.

- Sheku was BBC Young Musician of the Year in 2018. (in 2016)
- Sheku couldn't play the cello until he was twelve.
- The younger sisters can't play any musical instruments.
- Isata and Braimah can both (*entrambi*) play the piano.
- Sheku and his sisters get up at 4.30 a.m. every day to go to school.
- Their parents, Stuart and Kadie, were born in England.
- Kadie plays the cello, but Stuart can't play any musical instrument.
- The children never practise more than two hours a day.
- The family often go shopping for new clothes.
- The children worry (*si preoccupano*) because it isn't „cool“ to play a musical instrument.

WRITING

Write a presentation about a talented person you like (a musician, an actor, a sportsperson, ...). Minimum 70 words.

You can make a Power Point, a poster or a Word document. Include 5-6 photos.

MORE INFO on the Kanneh-Masons

watch the Britain's Got Talent audion:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4nCeqkxE0c>

watch Sheku's performance at the royal wedding:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TeDB27cq3fE>

THE KANNEH-MASONS

Is this the most talented family in Britain?

This was the question asked by the TV and music producer, Simon Cowell, when six of the seven brothers and sisters were on the TV show 'Britain's Got Talent' in 2015.

The children are often called 'prodigies', but their mother doesn't like this.

She knows they are talented musicians, but says that they are successful because they work very hard.



In 2018, Sheku was a special guest at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, where he played three pieces on the cello.



In 2016, Sheku, one of the two brothers and a fantastic cellist, was the BBC Young Musician of the Year. He was 17 years old. His sister Isata, 19, was also a finalist in the BBC competition in 2014. She is a pianist and a violinist. But they are not the only talented musicians in the family. Their brother Braimah, 18, and sisters, Konya, 15, Jeneba, 13, Aminata, 10, and little Mariatu, 6, can all play musical instruments really well.

Isata and Braimah are students at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Isata has a scholarship (*borsa di studio*) from the singer/songwriter Elton John. She plays the piano, violin and viola. Braimah plays the violin. Next is Sheku. He could play the cello when he was six and now attends the junior school of the Royal Academy. He gets up at 4.30 a.m. every Saturday and goes by train to London. His sisters go with him.



The family live in Nottingham, England. Mother, Kadie, is from Sierra Leone, West Africa, and the father, Stuart, comes from Antigua, in the Caribbean. They are both very musical – Stuart plays the cello and Kadie the clarinet, so you could always

hear some music in their home. But they say that their children's amazing musical talent is still a shock to them and they now have an orchestra in their house. Isata was the first to start playing (the piano), and so when the others were born it was normal to hear music in their house. Their home has four pianos, three cellos, four violins, and a viola, and the children practise for two hours a day, sometimes more.

The family aren't rich. Money is always a worry. Instruments are very expensive – one cello string (*corda*) costs £80! Their car is very old and they never buy new clothes or go on holiday. But the parents are very proud of their children. Their father, Stuart, says, 'A lot of teenage boys, especially, feel it isn't 'cool' to play an instrument.' He's really pleased that his children don't think that.

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