

Listening - Part 1

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Transcript

A: This is Rock Friday and this evening we play only Phil Collins music. In the studio I have with me now a special guest June Collins, Phil Collins' mother. Good evening June.

June: Good evening, I'm very happy to be here. Though my son doesn't know anything about it.

A: We do not know much about Phil as a child. Let's start with the very beginning. He was born in 1951, right?

June: He was born as the third child of the family on the 30th January 1951. He has an elder sister and a brother. They're all very talented of course, ha ha. Carol was a famous ice-skater and Clive is a cartoonist. Their father worked as a clerk and he wanted them to have ordinary jobs. But he was proud of them.

A: How did Phil's musical career start?

June: He was born to play the drums; his sense of rhythm gave him a special style. He got his first drum at the age of five. If he sat down at a table he was tapping on it. He still does if you go out to a restaurant with him. In front of the mirror, or the TV, he was drumming along to any music he could.

A: Yes, he is a drummer above else, but he wrote some of the best songs and he is a famous singer too. What about his schools?

June: He wasn't very hard working and good at learning at school. But he started a band. I drove him to concerts. Later he brought an old van, which broke down all the time. In the middle of the night there was a phone call saying, "can you come and take us home?" He brought his friends round and there were all his friends eating all my food and sleeping on the floor.

A: What was he like?

June: Phil was a wonderful boy. Very good to his grandmother who lived with us, very caring. He was quite normal, played football. The only problem I ever had was with his hair. He loved it long and I didn't, ha ha.

A: When did he move away from home?

June: He lived at home until his father died. Then I gave him the money to rent a flat in Epson. He spent little time at his new home because he joined Genesis. Went on huge world tours with them. They loved his sense of humour and he was the best musician in the band.

A: If I remember well, he took acting; his first role was in a 1985 episode of the film Miami Vice, and then a lead role in a comedy and later a role as a police inspector.

June: Yes, yes I wanted him to be an actor so I sent him to a stage school, but he preferred music.

A: We can hear this or that about ex-wives and girlfriends. Is he married?

June: Unfortunately he divorced his two wives because he's a workaholic; work, work, work. He loves life on the road. But he's a good father; he rings his children every Sunday at 8pm wherever he is.

A: He has a Swiss girlfriend hasn't he?

June: By the time he met this 24 year old Swiss girl, his second marriage was over. He was just following his heart. I'll visit them in the flat he's renting in Geneva over the holidays.

A: Do you know anything about his plans?

June: He's working hard on a solo album. He never gets the chance to get bored. And then he goes out at the end of February to Japan. He's touring everywhere. Japan, Australia and then Europe, basically he's on the road until the end of September.

A: June thank you for being with us.

June: Thank you.

(Words 639)