Feroza Begum does not consider Bangladesh an ideal place for nurturing talents. According to her, the government has not been supportive at all, nor has it ever given much thought to patronising cultural activities. "Which is why I discouraged my sons to take music as professions. They play music as a passion but not as a profession," she says.





This legendary musician had to go through several obstacles in her kaleidoscopic journey.

"For my family and three sons-- Tahseen, Hamin and Shafin-- I sacrificed the golden era of my life for six years. My husband did not tell me to do so, however, I considered taking care of my sons as my first priority. Considering the future of my offspring I even sacrificed my music career when I was ranked the master Nazrul Sangeet singer in Kolkata and migrated to Dhaka. Still, I'm a happy mother and leading a harmonious life with my sons, daughters in law and grandchildren," she adds.

As a singer in Kolkata, Feroza Begum has had some spectacular achievements. An enlisted artist of Akashbani Kolkata, Feroza Begum used to render music genres such as Nazrul Sangeet, Rabindra Sangeet, thumri, dhadra, ghazals, bhajan, geet and folk songs. But, at the begging of the 1960s, she concentrated only on Nazrul Sangeet. Her bold and revolutionary attitude gave Nazrul Sangeet a rebirth in Kolkata at a time when the music scenario was dominated by the master adhunik gaan (contemporary song) singers such as Hemanto Mukhapadhyay, Shatinath Mukhopaddyay, Shondhya Mukhopadhyay, Manobendra Mukhopadhyay, Shyamal Mitra, Manna Dey and Pratima Banarjee. Nobody in those days in Kolkata was interested in Nazrul Sangeet. But, a new challenge was ahead of Feroza Begum to give Nazrul Sangeet the respect it deserved.

Feroza Begum could not tolerate the ongoing negligence of Nazrul Sangeet. She says, "In 1962, HMV gave me an offer to record two songs for the puja celebrations due to popular demand. Getting the offer I told them that I would do it, however, songs in the record would feature Nazrul Sangeet. They refused. But, I stuck to my position.

