

# TELEVISION OF SONGS AND LIFE



**TELEVISION OF A LIFETIME**

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[Continued from last issue]

In television music programs hold its own importance. The reason behind this importance is because audience does not always want to see dramas or television show all the time but in case of music they surely want to watch it more. Audience would love to watch a good song. This might be the reason why there are so many channels centered on music. This channels sole identity revolves around music.

Keeping audience part aside, in television a song is repeated most of the time so it restores the audience with a great deal of archive value. Nowadays the music channels are highly conscious about the music video. Apart from focusing on the artists the producers were also conscious about how to highlight the background of the video. Music enthusiastic has various opinions about these music videos. Television personality Mustafa Monwar was once asked a question in a program as to "How people like to listen to music" to which he replied "People love listening to music closing their eyes while sitting on a comfortable chair". If people enjoying listening to music while closing their

eyes then what is the need for spending so much money on music video? But even so the music video trend did not end there.

In 1964 the journey of television was started with Ferdousi Rahman's television show. The song which was written by Dr. Abu Hena Mustafa Kamal was cinematographed by Rafiqul Bari Chowdhury.

After that there were many music programs in television. After the introduction of Ferdousi Rahman song then came the musical entrance of Nazrul song specialist and artist Feroza Begum.

At that time there was a modern day music program in television called "Surbitan".

At that time famous artists like Shahnaz Rahmatullah, Sabina Yasmin, Syed Abdul Hadi, Mohammad Abdul Jabbar, Khandakar Faruk Ahmed, M. A. Hamid, Mohammed Ali Siddiqui and many more participated in Surobitan. At that time the program gained lots of popularity. Rabindra Sangeet, Nazrul Sangeet, Folk songs was also telecast like that. At that artist used to directly perform with the musicians. These kind of programs used to be aired live in television.

In 1971 liberation war Television played a major role in promoting music

at that time. From 1st March till 25th March used to be showcased in television and also Fahmida Khatun voice to the Rabindra Sangeet "Aji Bangladesher Hridoy Hote" was also aired continuously, which used to excite the patriotism among the nationalities.

After the country was liberated a folk festival was arranged in Dhaka in 1974. An 18 year old girl from Kushtia comes to Dhaka with the tune of Lalon music in her voice. By performing a spell bounding Lalon music she mesmerizes the audience. She is none other than Farida Parvin.

In the 80's a new era of music begins in television. There came a huge difference in terms of performance. Khaleda Fahmi produced an amazing program with the performance of a patriotic song sung by Runa Laila. The outdoor shooting was well-defined. The program was done in such a way as to keep a similarity between each song in the cinematography. There was presence of modern and beauty in Runa Laila's performance. This program added another dimension to Bangladesh television.

Mitali Mukherjee came from Mymensingh. Musa Ahmed has produced lots of musical programs with this musi-

cally skilled artist. Mitali Mukherjee song popularity is still intact till date. Apart from singing modern day song Sabina Yasmin is also well known for singing patriotic songs.

By Musa Ahmed's production came "Majhi Naw | Chhaira De" and with the production of Kamrunessa came Shundor-Shuborno-Laborno Ey Dosh or the song Ey Rail Lin er Dhare Moddho Boyoshi Ek Naari Ekhono Royechhe Dariye. And also the famous poem "Sadhinota Tumi Robi Thakurer Omor Kobita" written by poet Shamsur Rahman and music given by Khandakar Nurul Alam was given voice by Sabina Yasmin. She also sang the famous cult song "Shob Kota Janala Khule Daw Na".

Bidit Laal Das and his team came from Sylhet. They performed a lot of Sylheti songs at that time.

An artist came out from the team and he is none other than the famous musician in our country Subir Nandi.

Most of the songs sung by Mohammad Rafiqul Alam and Abida Sultana gained much popularity at that time.

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## LIFE'S LYRICS

# Marina - from Stingray



**LIFE'S LYRICS**

NASHID KAMAL

The CNG dropped us in Sat Bangla junction in Mumbai, India. Marina looked at me and gasped, "Nashid apa! Oh my God!"

"What?" I replied. Both new to the city, wondering what happened now as we were in a hurry to join our morning lessons with our Guruji Pandit Jasraj in Versova, we had yet to take another CNG.

"I left all the stuff in the CNG!" she finished her sentence.

"What stuff?", still wondering if it was her purse with keys and cash etc.

"The alu bharta and daal bharta! I had made for Guruji", said Marina.

"Oh, no..." I sighed with relief and laughed, "Bring it another day, the CNG driver will have a ball today".

We rushed to join Guruji in his Versova camp where students gathered from all over India. Only few of us stayed elsewhere and joined him in the morning, transport was scarce. He had kept a cook for us; he served us the same repetitive meals for lunch.

However, the love with which Guruji fed us more than compensated for the 'win ordinaire' meals. Hence, Marina had decided to enrich our palate with her self-made alu bharta and daal bharta.

Those were the starting years in 1989 when I joined them in the camp in

Mumbai. Marina Ahmad had started living there from one year ahead with her son Hamza. Even prior to that, during her early teens, she lived in Delhi, spending one year learning classical music in Gandharva Maha Vidyalaya. Even earlier than that, at age four, she started her training under Ustad Phul Mohammad and Ustad Barin Majumder in Bangladesh.

Many years later, in 2012, Guruji was invited to sing in Bangladesh (By Indian Cultural Centre), and the flier had the names of two of his senior disciples Tripti Mukherjee and Marina Ahmad. What an achievement!

I remembered all her struggles, leaving Mumbai to establish herself in NY. I thought maybe she cannot continue her classical music anymore but she proved me wrong. Through life's trials and tribulations, she settled herself in NY and made a name for herself there. She learnt from Guruji (Mewati Gharana) when he visited USA and also made trips to Mumbai and spent half the time travelling this way, also training students across the Tri states.

She took training in the Jaipur gharana under trainer Ms. Manik Bhide and also has been experimenting with jazz-fusion. It uniquely combines the depth of the Indian classical style with the free flowing motion of jazz. She performs in various countries,



including Japan, USA, India, and UK. She has ghazal, bhajan, sufi songs in her CDs.

She is the youngest daughter of Senior Advocate of Bangladesh Mr Fakir Shahabuddin Ahmad. He was a very close advisor to Bangabandhu and very recently, just before my father former CJ Justice Mustafa Kamal passed away, I got some facts corrected. Earlier I always thought that my father was called to the bench by President Ziaur Rahman. When Marina was visiting Dhaka in 2013, performing classical in ICCR,

Gulshan, my father mentioned that Bangabandhu had asked Mr Fakir Shahabuddin to ask him to join the bench. In my father's exact words, "Tell Kamal that the future of this nation has to be in the hands of people like him". I once again learnt about Bangabandhu's farsightedness in preparing people for important positions.

Last month, I went to visit Marina in Dhaka and she said, "I want you to meet someone Nashid apa." In the other room there was a paraplegic young man aged around 14. He was a discharged patient from CRP and he was having his evening meal. Marina said that she had taken him in as her ward and then introduced me to another little girl aged five, who was training in Tagore songs. Amazing, I thought to myself. Maybe someday this young man will be playing classical flute! Not only did she make something out of herself, she is trying to extend her hand towards those who are less privileged. Marina, Marina, I remembered the serial Stingray and the song there. There was a character called Marina, she sailed and sailed, until her beautiful eyes could decipher the correct destination. My friend Marina Ahmad, is the same.

The writer is an academic, Nazrul exponent and writer.