

# A CHAT WITH SAMIRA ABBASI

*To begin with, can you brief our readers about the nature of the work you are involved with?*

Professionally, I'm an engineer, but by passion, I am a musician at first, and then a writer and poet. These are the avenues I reside in and derive inspiration from; the means through which I express myself.

*How long have you been involved with music?*

Oh, Since I was three! I have been blessed to be raised in a family where it was mandatory to interact with music. Even though it felt tedious at an earlier age, I grew up to embrace music as a way of life. In the long stretch of your dedication towards music, there must have been important moments. Could you share one such occasion?

One such important moment was when I started my tutelage under the famous pundit Ajoy Chakrabarty. I made frequent visits to Kolkata's Sangeet Research Academy to be mentored by him. He not only gave me musical lessons, but life lessons as well. Such are the teachings of a guru.

*What would you say acts as a means of inspiration on your behalf?*

Honestly, I seek inspiration every single day of my life. As an artist, that is the way I can identify my soul. Nature plays an immense role of inspiration. I reside by the ocean and that in turn stimulates me. Even as a painter, the beauty of nature influences me heavily, traces of which can be observed in my attire as well.

*Could you shed some light on your*



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*recent endeavours?*

Currently, I am working on an original music track of mine, because apart from the covers, every singer has an inherent dream of having their own song. I am also working on music videos due for

release on the upcoming Eid. I have recently completed the recording of a CD for my English poetry recitation. Besides, planning is underway for the enactment of my short stories as dramas. As you are an expat residing in the

*U.S, how do you balance between work and family, given the hectic schedule you have when visiting Bangladesh?*

That is the reason why I came for a longer period this year. My priority was to attend to my aging parents, so I didn't even inform any one about my arrival until a month and a half later. Eventually, everyone found out. I must tell you, despite living a good life in the U.S, it seems that when I am in the studio here, ready to record a track, I totally feel this is what I was meant to do.

*If you were to share something about yourself, which our readers are unaware of, what would it be?*

Well, I always try to involve myself in cases of calamities so I can offer as much support as possible to those in dire need. For example during the tragic "Rana Plaza" incident, despite the distance, I was rather restless. So I made an effort to collect money from the U.S, U.K, and elsewhere through the social networks, and after conducting a survey in Bangladesh, I made sure the money reached to those most in need and I also worked with the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) to make specialized wheelchairs for those who lost their limbs. Please keep in mind that the reason I am disclosing this is merely as a means of inspiration to share our fortunes with the underprivileged. My efforts are but a grain of sand in the desert.

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Interviewed by Minam Haque

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