

THROUGH THE EYES



FOAD NASSER BABU

A living legend in the band music arena of Bangladesh, Foad Nasser is the music composer and keyboardist of the prominent band, Feedback. Foad Nasser is a name in the music industry of our country that is yet to be replicated. He is mostly known for his amazing composition of evergreen Bangla songs. And he is also known for his genius on keyboards. Feedback's first appearance was in The Hotel Inter-continental (now the Sheraton), Dhaka in 1977. Their first recorded song was 'Aye Din Chirodin Robey' in 1982. In 1995, Feedback was awarded the best band by 'Jai Jai Din'. Some of their popular songs are 'Aye Din Chirodin Robey', 'Ek Jhak Projapoti', 'Jhau Bonay', 'Udashi', 'Moushumi 1 & 2', 'Kemon Korey Hai', 'Janala', 'Majhi', 'Mela', 'Bidrohi', 'Geetikobita 1 & 2' and 'Abar Mela'. His compositions include music for radio and TV commercials, theme and background score for drama, feature films, documentaries and songs for solo artistes that became very popular. Foad Nasser will be cherished forever for his remarkable contributions in the music industry of Bangladesh.

INSPIRATION

Unquestionably, my family is my first inspiration. Mercifully, I am favored with an extremely cultural bloodline. My father, mother, brother and sisters- all were inclined with music. Though every member of my family had a different taste for music, I got the chance of listening to various kinds of music. These elements have helped me to create a perception over music. My siblings used to sing with harmonium while my eyes were set on guitar, listening to the musicians of western pop groups and singers. Prompting guitar lessons from a friend in the neighborhood, and gradually I hooked on piano. I have an interesting story behind my journey with piano. The recording sessions with our honorable Samar Das, Satya Shaha, Subal Das, Alam Khan and Alauddin Ali were like class rooms. One day, our beloved Samar Das asked me to play piano in a recording session. Though, I used to play bass guitar that time, I had to follow his instructions. So, I became very nervous and started playing piano and finally I was able to satisfy him with that. From that time, my journey with piano began and I am still adoring it. Also, our band: Feedback is my inspiration.

PHILOSOPHY

My philosophy is to love others. If a person loves others, does good to others and behaves good with others; in return, he will hardly get negative treatments. There may be some fair competitions in the market, but we should always refrain ourselves from quarreling, jealousy and all kinds of negativity. I think, if everyone thinks like that, we will be able to make the world more meaningful, peaceful and beautiful.

VIEWS ON HIS PROFESSION

Music is a language; moreover, an expression which is divine. It's a medium of two-way communication through which an artiste expresses his thoughts and an audience receives and gives negative or positive feedbacks to him. Music is both my passion and profession. In my view, every artiste should preserve and culture his talent in a proper manner. And without proper training, many talents may stagnate. Nowadays, due to technological advancement, everything is quite easily available and accessible. So, internet can be a great tool for our young generation musicians. Therefore, we all should be very concerned about conserving our root songs and take necessary steps to uplift

the taste of our future generation.

MUSIC

My thirst for music never makes me tired. Therefore, listening to music; specially, instrumental tracks have amazing charm on me. Smooth jazz is also my favorite. During leisure, I often love having a cup of tea and listening to old songs.

FILMS

I have watched a lot of movies of different languages. Among the Bengali movies, *Jibon Theke Neya* and *Hirok Rajar Deshe* are some of my favorites. I love to watch the old movies of Khan Ataur Rahman, Subhash Dutta and Satyajit Ray.

BOOKS

I think, the perception of a person depends on his surroundings and his thoughts are developed according to the books he read. Hence, the books of Rabindranath and Kazi Nazrul Islam are on the top of my favorite lists. Their poems and novels had never failed to amaze me. *Parthibo* by Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay is one of my most favorite books. Also, the books of Samareesh Basu and Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay are my favorites.

FUTURE PLANS

I always remain busy thinking and deal-

ing with music. Recently, we gave some of our band songs to GP (Grameenphone) for their music station. Additionally, I have composed a 12 minutes long instrumental track for a dance drama which was staged at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Besides, our band's anniversary is coming soon. So, I am busy with those works. It is my concealed aspiration to spread our Bangla songs amongst the people of the whole world so that all could sing some of the hit songs of our nation.

IDOLS

I have so many idols in my entire musical life. My honorable instructors are – Jon Lord, Rick Wakeman, Kieth Emerson, Elton John, Chic Corea in the west. And Salil Chowdhury, Shudhin Das Gupta, Satya Shaha, Lucky Akhand and Mr. Alauddin Ali, the greatest composer of our time, I have been very fortunate to work with him closely. I grew up with all their songs; moreover, I have learnt a lot of things and also got inspired by their remarkable creations. Their influences guide all my compositions.

By Shawreen Rahman