

# SHEMONTY MONJARI

**SINGER**

*When it comes to young classical singers in Bangladesh, Shemonty Monjari is a name that is bound to come up. Trained in Rabindra Sangeet from a young age at Dhaka's Chhayanaout Sangeet Vidyatan, she has won national competitions and has performed in many concerts both in and outside the country.*

#### Plans for New Year's Eve

I have been living in London for the last year. My mother and younger brother are here in London. I have planned to celebrate Christmas with them and make every moment special.

#### My Biggest Achievements of 2017

Leaving everything behind in Bangladesh and moving to England for my Masters was one of the toughest decisions of my life. I was engaged in various activities in Bangladesh, the most important one being teaching at Chhayanaout. Starting from teaching, my music career, to my personal relationships with people, I had to sacrifice so many things for my MA here. It was a very big step for me. Another achievement that I would like to mention is the launching of my second album from Bengal Foundation *Dekho Re Chittokomole*. Other than these, performing Rabindra Sangeet abroad was something very special for me. I had the privilege to perform in solo shows in London and Cambridge and I was honoured to represent Bangladesh in this foreign land.

#### New Year's Resolution

For 2018, I have quite a lot of goals. Most of all, I want to engage myself with music more. I would also like to keep myself healthy and be confident in doing anything I need to do.

#### Something I'd like to change about myself in 2018

I believe in the saying "Change is the only constant". I've changed a lot in the past year and wish to see some more positive changes in me. Most importantly I want to be stronger and more patient in 2018.

#### A memorable moment of 2017

2017 has been a tremendous year for me! But if I have to specify one incident, I would mention the most precious day of my life. It was the day of my CD launching at 29th July where Dr Sanjida Khatun, my mentor and biggest support, was the chief guest. She spoke a few words about me on stage and I was overwhelmed with joy. I had never imagined I would be so honored before!

#### What I plan to achieve in 2018

In 2018, I want to go back to Bangladesh to resume my music career. I want to start my profession and handle some familial responsibilities. Also, in the upcoming years, I want to read and practice more to gain expertise on Rabindra Sangeet, my topic of specialization for quite some time.

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Interviewed by Sanjida Chowdhury



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