

Chandana Majumdar

Chandana Majumdar is one of the prominent exponents of Bangladeshi folk music. She received the 'Bangladesh National Film Award' in the Best Female Playback Singer category for the film 'Monpura'. She lent her voice as a playback singer to numerous Bangla films. In a recent interview with Star Showbiz, Chandana opened up about her life and musical journey.



How did you start your musical journey?

I was born into a family seeped into music, where the ambiance of melody was embedded in my way of living. My father, the eminent singer, Nirmal Chandra Majumdar steered my journey towards music. He doesn't sing anymore; but back in the day, he was associated with every medium of music, like the radio and television. He is a great admirer of Lalou, and holding my father's hand, I stepped into this sphere of music. His blessings and companionship led me to the pathway of success.

What is your most favorite memory in your musical career?

I have numerous fun memories in my musical career. However, there is one that I keep on reminiscing. I once went to Switzerland to perform, and back then, very few Bangalis lived in Switzerland. I went on the stage to sing, and hearing my performance, the audience started dancing. During the performance, a few came up to me and presented me with a garland, made of Swiss francs. It was a once in a lifetime experience. I am very fond of this particular memory, and I always recall this gesture of love and admiration as the nostalgic allure of my musical career.

What type of music do you listen to?

Being a folk singer and an admirer of Lalou, I tend to deeply connect myself to the songs sung by his successors. In the arena of folk music, noted artistes like Nina Hamid, Ferdausi Rahman, Rathindranath Roy, Indra Mohan Rajbongshi, Farida Parveen and Kiran Chandra Roy are always on my playlist. Besides, one of my most favorite singers is Pratima Bandopadhyay. Amongst the artistes of the new generation, I listen to Beauty, Salma, Kona and many others.

Who are your inspirations?

My first and foremost inspiration is my mother. Her encouragement fortified my devotion towards music, and after she

departed from this world, it was my mother-in-law who nurtured my passion for it. These two ladies steered my identity to what it is today.

How do you spend your leisure time?

Everyone has a specific list of hobbies that they do during their leisure time. I also have my own set, which are mostly gardening and home decor. These two are my favorite pastimes, and I spend most of my spare time either in the garden, or arranging the decor of my home. I also like sewing and knitting. Moreover, I love reading books, and the engaging novels of Humayun Ahmed and Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay are my all-time favourites.

Do you have any advice for the upcoming singers?

One can gather the knowledge of music by following the footsteps of their gurus. The younger generation artistes must learn music from proper instructors, and be committed towards it. One cannot be a self-taught professional singer by following YouTube tutorials. The teachings from online videos will not help them to sustain their career in music. Dedication and the desire to learn music from professionals will help them to become successful singers. We have many talented young artistes who have the potential to achieve huge success if they embed music in their souls. I would like to request them to learn music passionately, and hold on to it with sincerity. Only then, they can achieve fame and success.

Do you have any regret in life?

This is very difficult to describe, because I have got more than I deserve. However, everyone does have a few regrets in life. I think for me, I could have acquired more knowledge. I believe I learn new things everyday and continue widening my scope of understanding.

By Joana Nomrata Mazumder