

KONAL



Somnur Monir Konal came into the music scene after she won the popular music contest, 'Shera Kontho'. Since then, she has become a prominent figure in the music industry. In an interview with Star Showbiz, Konal talks about how her career started, and shed light on what it's like to be a musician in Bangladesh.

Tell us something about yourself.

I'm a very bubbly person; I'm both an extrovert and an introvert. My main source of pleasure is music, and it's also my best companion.

What inspired you to start singing?

My mother used to sing, and that's what really inspired me. She wasn't a professional musician, but her side of the family was involved with music. My grandfather used to play different musical instruments.

How did your career in music start?

I spent the majority of my childhood in Kuwait, and I came back to Bangladesh in 2009. After I returned, I signed up for a reality show, called *Shera Kontho*. I ended up winning the contest, and that was the beginning of my career in music.

Did you have a mentor?

Of course, I had mentors. My main mentor and teacher was Keka Mukher-

jee; she was the one who taught me music.

Do you play any musical instrument?

I learnt classical music, so I can play the *tanpura*. I can play the piano a little as well. I had gone to Romel bhai for piano lessons, but for some reason I could not continue. I can also play the harmonium.

Tell us about your upcoming projects.

I have recorded two new songs; one of which I plan to release this Eid. We shot a music video for the first song during the first week of August. The second song will be released soon, after the first one is out.

Do you have any advice for upcoming musicians?

Love music enough to stick to it in the face of all challenges. If you chase your dream of becoming a musician, you'll face many obstacles. You will have to learn to not give up, and to keep on

persevering.

What is the life of a musician like?

In our country, the life of a musician is very uncertain and difficult. A musician must struggle a lot, but it's very rewarding as well as the people here love music. When someone tells you that they loved your music, it's the most rewarding feeling ever.

What is your favourite musical memory?

My teacher handing me her harmonium, that has to be my most favourite memory. I felt so honoured when she gave me the harmonium that she had used all her life because she believed that I'd take good care of it.

Do you have any message for the readers?

I would like to ask the readers to be responsible in whatever they do: read responsibly, listen to music responsibly and do everything responsibly.

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Ridwan Intisaar Mahbub