



Voice of Indian Song

Becoming a Singer

Sudokshina Chatterjee:

It was actually not at all my decision. It was my mother's decision. My mother wanted to be a singer herself. She was singing very well. But then she got married and she got me as a child and she was working so she couldn't make it. So she wanted that I become a singer – she wanted to fulfil her dreams through me. And also, it was her idea that you can only have mental peace through music so she wanted that even if I don't be a professional singer, I will attain this, you know, this mental peace I will get.

I started at a very tender age. I started first with my mother at the age of 3. And I gave my first public performance in the television when I was only 4 years. And then I started with a teacher, a proper teacher, who was of Kirana gharana at the age of 6 and I was with intensive talim with this teacher at about ten years and continuing from six years. And then he suddenly died and it was very unfortunate for me and then for two years I was not really finding a good teacher. I was in search of a good teacher and then I found one, Pandit Viresh Roy of Kirana gharana as well. And from him I took talim for another seven years. After that it was a decision of my parents also that I switch over from Kirana gharana to the Patiala and then I found my present teacher who's herself a very eminent vocalist of Calcutta. She's from Patiala gharana and a disciple of Ustad Munawar Ali Khan Saheb.

From her I'm taking intensive talim for, this is the 13th year, the 13th year running and so I've been under her talim all these years and following the style of her music or following Patiala gharana.