



SUDAKSHINA SARMA

A Soul Stirring Voice

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The rare resonance in the voice rendered for such immortal songs as *Nahar Phule Nusuai*, *Mahatmai Hashi Bole* etc, immediately brings to a music lover's mind the name of none other than Sudakshina Sarma. Sudakshina Sarma was born to Neelakanta Hazarika and Santipriya Hazarika in Guwahati in the year 1934. She was named Nirupama Hazarika by her parents. She grew up in a musical environment as her eldest brother was none other than the music maestro Dr. Bhupen Hazarika. She started singing since her early age. She recorded her first song at the age of 10. Her first song was Bishnu Rabha's *Nahor Phule Nusuai...* and *Visware Chande Chande...* with Kamal Narayan Chaudhury. The beginning of her music career showed great promises and she became famous and popular after recording *Mahtmai Hashi Bole*, *E Joi Raghu Nandan*, *Endhar Katir Nishat* etc. with her brother Bhupen Hazarika.

She got married to Dilip Sarma, an artist of the masses. After marriage, she changed her name to Sudakhsina Sarma, and subsequently her musical career

began to flourish. Together they sang numerous popular songs. The couple became very popular among people. Some of their famous songs were *Moyu Bone Jao Swami He*, *Ratipuai Lore Kurai Pore Rao*, *Dhanpur O Monpur O*, *Tamulore Bagicha*, *Kamala Kuori* etc. Sudaksina sang several popular songs in the movies like *Parghat*, *Moniram Dewan*, *Chikmik Bijulee* and *Abooj Bedona*.

Dilip Sarma was an active member of Gana Natya Sangha and as the wife of Dilip Sarma, Sudakshina Sarma too became associated with this organisation. As a member of Gana Natya Sangha, she was influenced by Bishnu Rabha and Hemanga Biswas besides several famous artists from other parts of India .

Along with Dilip Sarma, Sudakshina Sarma has made great contribution to the musical field of Assam particularly by giving wide publicity to the immortal songs of Jyotiprasad Agarwala and Bishnuprasad Rabha. Assamese people will always remember Sudakshina Sarma for her contribution towards Assamese music, and particularly for her voice that keeps reverberating in the music lovers' ears for long. □□