



PARVEEN SULTANA

In the Magical Terrain of Music

“Her outstanding musicality, soul stirring virtuosity have earned for her such glorifying epithets as the ‘Queen of Hindustani Music’ and ‘the Ultimate Soprano’.”

“Parveen Sultana is among the cognoscenti, the household word...It is the voice that seduces the listener into approval”

Begum Parveen Sultana, an Assamese Hindustani classical singer of the Patiala Gharana, needs no introduction to the people of Assam. She was born on the 10th of July in 1950 at Daccapatty in Nowgong town, Assam, to late Ikramul Majid and Maroofa Majid. Her early schooling was done in Mission School. Music was in her genes as her musical training began under the tutelage of none other than her grandfather Mohammed Najeef Khan, a Pathan as well as her father Janab Ikramul Majid.

Her father, a strict disciplinarian, took special care so that young Parveen did her *riyaaz* well. In fact, her voice, many say, is God gifted in terms of its pure tonal quality and matchless virtuosity. A child prodigy, she gave her first stage performance at the tender age of 12 years in 1962 and since 1965, has been regularly recording music. She also went through rigorous training under the guidance of

Sangeetacharya Chinmoy Lahiri of Calcutta. She has recorded for HMV, Polydor, Music India etc.

However she found her forte when she came to Bombay and became a disciple of Ustad Dilshad Khan who belonged to the Patiala Gharana. She found under him a new dimension to her singing, with unique expertise over the ragas. In fact both of them have now become synonymous with perfect *jugalbandis* (duets) in most musical soirees throughout the world. She married her mentor Ustad Dilshad Khan later and they were blessed with a daughter. They are known to be 'the best known duo in the country today of Hindustani music.

Parveen Sultana's genre lies in Khayal, bhajans, thumris and she was duly recognized for her talents when she was conferred the Padmashree in 1976. At that time, she was the youngest recipient of this award. Besides the Padmashree, she has been honoured with Gandharva Kalanidhi award in 1980, Miyan Tansen prize in 1986 and so on. The Govt of Assam has also recognized her exceptional talents in the field of music by conferring on her the Sangeet Samraggi title in 1994 as well as the Srimanta Sankardev award. The common man in India would perhaps be more familiar with her famous song *Hame Tumse Pyar Kitna* from the film *Kudrat* which catapulted her to fame. She won the Filmfare Best Female Playback Singer award in 1981 for this song. In 1999, she received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.

Her outstanding musicality, soul stirring virtuosity have earned for her such glorifying epithets as the 'Queen of Hindustani Music' and 'the Ultimate Soprano'. Parveen Sultana belongs to the rare breed of classical singers who claim equal rapport with both the Hindustani and Carnatic music audiences to her credit. □□