

SOUNAK CHATTOPADHYAY



Sounak is one of the most talented and significant vocalists of his generation and a unique artiste by virtue of his versatility in handling both Hindustani Classical music (Khayal) and Rabindrasangeet (compositions of India's poet laureate ó Rabindranath Tagore).

He is trained in the **Kirana Gharana** style of Khayal Gayaki under the maestro **Ustad Mashkoor Ali Khan Sahab** and his younger brother Ustad Mubarak Ali Khan in vocal Hindustani classical music. Sounak has numerous feathers adorning his cap. He received the **First** prize in Swar Prabhat Talent Contest and was awarded the Youngest Talent award by the newspaper Protidin and the **Ustad Amir Khan Memorial**

award for the **Best vocalist** in **Dover Lane Music conference Talent search**. He received **National scholarship** in the field of Hindustani classical music by Ministry of Tourism and Culture Govt. of India in 2004.

Sounak stood **first** and was awarded the Title "**Suramani**" by Sur Singar Sansad of Mumbai. He has also been a scholar of the **Gyana Pravaha Trust** for advanced and outstanding students under the supervision of Pandit Vijay Kumar Kichlu. He regularly performs Khayal at various concerts all over India and has also performed in the UK and the US.

His very first overseas concert was a grand success at the Suradhwami Raga Festival (Wolverhampton). In the words of Surodhwani - "*It was a UK debut for Sounak Chatterjee of Kolkata and what a debut it was! It was a performance worthy of a singer twice his age...*" - *Sur Sangbad: News bulletin from Surdhwani. (UK)*. He has performed at the Nehru Centre (London) for two consecutive years, a rare feat again. Sounak has also travelled all over the United States performing and conducting workshops in New York City, Washington DC, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Dallas, Detroit, Nashville, Atlanta etc. He was among the artists invited for the Bongo-Sanskriti Sannam in San Francisco in 2009 and one of the directors of the Rabindra Utsav a national festival of theatre, dance and music on works of Tagore and their interpretations. Rabindrasangeet is comparatively a newer addition to Sounak's repertoire. He combines in him the rare gift of rendering songs of Rabindranath Tagore alongwith Classical Music, specializing on the more difficult and lesser known songs. He has studied the subject with stalwarts like ó Smt. **Swagalakshmi Dasgupta** and Smt. **Pramita Mallick**. Sounak is an empanelled artist of the ICCR-Govt. of India for both Khayal and Tagore songs and also broadcasts regularly over the All India Radio. He already has four music albums to his credit. His albums have been successful documents of experimentation and traditional representations of his subjects, both classical and Rabindrasangeet and have been greeted by the cognoscenti and senior music critics alike.

Refer to www.sounak.com for more details.