



Life histories and contribution of Kashmiri singers Naseema Akhter and Ashiq Hussain

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Abstract

The musicians and the artist do not relish writing during those days, as a result of which we do not possess anything written material on the notation or on the grammar of music, which was prevalent at that time. Since Kashmiri language does not have any prescribed script of its own, the culture and tradition preserved in its music has passed from generation to generation.

Keywords: life histories, contribution of Kashmiri singers, musical voices

Introduction

Singer: Naseema Akhter

Naseema Akhter daughter of Hassan Khan was born on 1933 at Magarmal Bagh Srinagar Kashmir. She was the third melody queen of Kashmir. She has given a new direction and dimension to Kashmiri light and folk music. Her magical and melodious voice has given life and light to classical pieces of Kashmiri music and poetry by presenting them with their original face and form. Naseema Akhter has done a remarkable work in restoring the quality of lyrics and left no stone unturned in enriching Kashmiri music. She has a unique style of performance and presentation of poetic combinations. Through her songs she has succeeded in bringing respect and recognition to Kashmiri music and rightly deserves to be regarded as the "Melody queen of Kashmir".

Right from her childhood, Naseema Akhter was fond of music. It was her personal interest which makes her to sing in tough times in Kashmir when music was seen ill in Kashmir. In the beginning of her career she worked as casual artist in Radio Kashmir and then she worked there as a permanent artist.

A legendary singer, Ghulam Hassan Sofi was her first teacher or guru. Afterwards Nasrulla Khan, Ghulam Mohiddin Balpori and Ghulam Mohammad Bhat gave her training. At that time all of them were also the employees in Radio Kashmir as artists.

Naseema Akhter was well versed in Gazal Singing and Chakir Te Rouf. She had been regularly performing in various programmes of Doordarshan Kendra, information department and Radio Kashmir. She had been participating regularly in various musical, cultural programmes, concerts, troupes, naat competitions organized by J&K State Cultural Academy.

She has also performed outside the Kashmir like in Calcutta, Madras, Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore and Bihar. She has received many certificates, medals of honour and shawls etc. Some of her praiseworthy songs are as under

- Shar gaejthas kar muen payi madno
- Wala Karyo lolimat lay madno.

Singer: Ashiq Hussain

Ashiq Hussain Son of Abdul Rehman, residence of S.D. Colony, Batamaloo. His qualification is 12th pass. He was born on June 7, 1972 at Srinagar in a musical environment. Ashiq Hussain has been learning instrumental and vocal at the age of 5 from his father Abdul Rehman, who is a folk singer.

At the age of 5 when he listens the music of legendry Ghulam Mohammad Sofi he got attracted to it and insisted his father to guide him, this was the beginning, in his musical field.

He is a baccha Nagma artist. In the beginning he joins his party as Baccha, a male dancer, and now he is the team leader. Nowadays, he is one of the famous Baccha Nagma artist.

At the age of 17 he has passed radio auditions in presence of Farooq Naziqi, the director of information department. He is approved A class artist of Radio Kashmir. He has worked as music teacher in Manasbal Army School and has been awarded as the best music teacher in Manasbal boarding school.

He is trying hard to preserve this style of singing in Kashmir. He is writing and composing the songs in such a way that it is loved by everyone. He is having a large number of young fan following.

He is also running a musical club as star Rose Anju Kashmiri Club. Many young youth are joining this club in order to preserve the music of Kashmir.

According to him government is doing nothing to preserve or boost this art of singing. This art has been limited to marriages only as this type of singing in Kashmir is full of aesthetics.

Ashiq Hussain is booked for marriages, parties and other occasion before two or three months because he is having a very busy schedule. Singing in marriages and parties is the only source of income for him.

He has sung some hit albums like Mayon Jigar, Dilbar Yaar, College Koor etc etc. He is a compelling singer who mesmerizes his audience all around with his golden voice.

He has received merit certificates from the Kashmir University and some awards from Army. He has displayed his talent outside Kashmir also like in Delhi, Gurgaon, Agra

Abhinav Theatre Jammu. Besides this, during winters, he used to sing Qawali in Khwaja Mouhiddin Chistis Shrine. According to him the Baccha Nagma of Kashmir is full of aesthetics. He adds that in Baccha Nagma the compositions are sweet and melodious.

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