



## Mrs Gouri Choudhury

Place of Residence: **London**

Sector: **Artist (Singer)**

**M**rs. Gouri Choudhury was born in May, 1964. Since she was born, her great love and passion for music was obvious. She portrayed this enthusiasm at the age of six, when she started to learn about music. Since then, she has thrived in attracting many people from the Bangladeshi community, to her beautiful sung Bengali folk, classical and modern songs.

Growing up in Bangladesh, Mrs. Choudhury also completed her education there. In 1984, she received her SSC and then in 1985, she attended Sylhet Academy of Fine Arts and gained a diploma in Folk Songs. Sylhet Shilpakala Academy was where she studied next, and here she got a Diploma in Music as well as her Higher School Certificate. Mrs. Choudhury continued her education and went to Chittagong University in 1988, where she studied Bachelor of Arts.

After finishing her education, Mrs. Gouri Choudhury came to the UK and started to work from 1989. She was a part time Bengali Music Teacher at Toynbee Hall, for five

years. During this time she also worked as a full time Bengali Music teacher for six years, which involved her organizing many performances at Bangladesh Centre in West London. Then from 1995 to 1996 she worked as a part-time Bengali Music Teacher at Bromley-By-Bow Centre. Her career as a Bengali Music Teacher did not stop there as she had the same role in various other schools such as Asian Music Academy in West London, Hermitage Supplementary School in Newham, St Paul's Way Community School, Morpeth Secondary School, Sarah Bonnell Secondary School and Nazrul Centre in Tower Hamlets. For a year she also worked at Newham Bengali Youth Front, where she was the youth worker for women. Today, she is also the Music Leader of Newham Young Person's Chorus and Sing up programme, which involves teaching music to primary schools all over London.

Mrs. Choudhury has also had a few voluntary jobs. For a year she was a Women's Development

Officer for Bangladesh Welfare Association where she helped develop Asian women's skills and talents. Also, she did voluntary work as a music teacher to many students in Bangladesh at Khelaghar Asar and Shilpakala Academy.

Such dedication to music and her work has been well recognized. Mrs. Gouri Choudhury has won many 'Best Singer' awards, from Bangla TV in 2004, BIMA 2004, ATN in 2005 and the community award for 'Best Singer' from Channel S in 2006. In 2002, she also won the 'Best Performance Award' after being asked by ZEE TV to perform on their well-known show Antaksari. She also appeared on Sa-Re-Ga-Ma a famous music show broadcasted on ZEE TV. Moreover, in 1998, she attended the Catholic Leuven University to perform especially for Professor Muhammed Yunus. Mrs. Choudhury also used to sing with a band called Kula Shekhar in the 1990's. Additionally, in 1992, HMV released her first modern and Bengali Folk song cassette.