

Ruchira Panda, from Kolkata, India, is the current torch-bearer of the Kotali Gharana, a lineage of classical vocal masters originally hailing from Kotalipara in pre-partition Bengal. She is a solo vocalist and composer who performs across all the major Indian Classical festivals in India, USA, CANADA and Europe. Her signature voice has an unusually deep timbre and high-octane power that also has mind-blowing flexibility to render superfast melodic patterns and intricate emotive glides across microtones.

Twenty four long years of mentoring by her guru, Pandit Manas Chakraborty, the son of legendary vocalist Sangeetacharya Tarapada Chakraborty, shaped her *gayki* (style), Raagdari (command over the Raga) and finesse.

Her repertoire includes Khayal, Thumri, Tappa, Tap-Khayal, Nirguni Bhajan and various other subtypes of Indian Light Classical music e.g. Jhoola, Birha, Patjhar, Chaiti, Kajri etc.

As a gifted composer and Guru, Ruchira keeps inventing new lyrics and tunes, sometimes just before or even during a concert. That, naturally, adds to the freshness and magic of the core Indian Classical tradition centered around live music settings.