

Appendix A

The singers are advised to read aloud the original songs first with the help of the pronunciation key below along with the accompanying audio-tape/compact disk or with their Gurus or instructors to get accustomed with the pronunciation and accent of original Bengali language with which Rabindranath Tagore meant to sing his songs. After becoming acquainted and comfortable with the accents, the singers may start to sing the songs with the notations.

It is advisable to master at least the first five, if not the six, chapters of the book "Indian Music for English Speaking singers" to get ready with the musical skill, needed for the songs of this book.

Pronunciation Key

Vowels

a	as in all, saw, auto	aa	as in father, calm
e	as in bed, net	ey	as in pay, hay, say
i	as in pit, till	ee	as in me, fee, see
oo	as in look, boot	ya	as in cat, tap
oi	as in oil, coil	o	as in more, boat
ou	as in about, round		
iya	as in year	iye	as in yes

Consonants

k	as in kite, cotton	kh	*
g	as in god, dog	gh	as in ghost
ch	as in chain, catch	chh	*
j	as in joke, jug	jh	*
t	as in top, tame	tth	*
th	as in both, birth	thh	as in thin, through
d	as in the, there	dh	*
dd	as in dawn, deed	ddh	*
p	as in pop, pot	f	as in fool, fawn
b	as in ball, base	v	as in vault, voice
m	as in may, mind	n	as in not, never
ng	as in sing, bring	l	as in lake, lock
h	as in hate, have	s	as in saw, sand
sh	as in push, show	ss	as in miss, kiss
r	as in raw, road	rh	*

* There are no equivalent English words available to represent those composite letters; so the singers need to consult the accompanying audio-tape/compact disk or to get help from their instructors or *Gurus* for correct pronunciations.