

We bring our website readers a festive interview with the winner of the «Ýylyň parlak ýyldyzy — 2025» (“Bright Star of the Year — 2025”) contest, the charming singer Gowher Hojimiradova.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

- **Place and date of birth:** Ashgabat city, 04.08.1998.
- **Completed higher education and specialty:** Turkmen State Institute of Culture, Faculty of Cultural Heritage; specialty — organizing and managing an amateur vocal-music ensemble, 2018–2023.
- **Workplace:** Senior artist-vocalist of the “Galkynyş” folk ensemble at the Cultural-Business Center of the Directorate for Worker Food Supply and Services of the State Concern “Turkmengaz”.
- **Achievements:** Winner of the competitions “Garaşsyzlygyň merjen däneleri — 2004” and the TV contest “Ýañlan, Diýarym! — 2018”; winner of the competition “Ýylyň parlak ýyldyzy — 2025”; recipient of the commemorative silver medal “30th Anniversary of Turkmenistan’s Permanent Neutrality”.

— Gowher, at the start of our conversation could you tell us about your first steps in the arts?

— Since childhood I loved singing. Although no one in my family was professionally involved in the arts, my parents’ support in this field was very significant.

— Who was your mentor?

— My first mentor was the singer Akgul Togtamyradova. At her initiative I began singing at age three in Kindergarten No. 20 in Ashgabat. Later, while studying at Secondary School No. 38 and at Children’s Art School No. 2, I performed songs to the words and music of teacher Akgul. From the honored artist of Turkmenistan Rustem Bayramov I learned the subtle secrets of performing folk songs.

— Which song first brought you fame?

— “Balajyk gelyär” (“Little One Is Coming”). This song, set to music by composer and honored artist of Turkmenistan Begenç Hojaýew in 2018, was well received by listeners.

— What kinds of songs do you feel closest to creating?

— Mainly patriotic themes. Songs about mothers are also close to me.

— **Who was your first listener?**

— My first listener, confidante, soulmate, advisor and support was my mother. She was even my stylist.

— **If you hadn't become a singer...**

— I would have continued my mother's profession: I would have become a doctor.



— **Which composers' music and which poets' words do you turn to most often?**

— To the people's writer of Turkmenistan Dowletgeldi Annamyradow and our poetess Gulshirin Hanowa. I often write myself, because no one knows the song an artist will sing better than the artist herself. In the final stage of the contest I performed "Ýüregim aldy" — a song set to my own words. We also work with composers Begenç Hojayew, Maksat Tuwakow, Babamyrat Babayew, and others.

— **In your opinion, what is the secret of success?**

— First of all, family support. Relentless hard work, tirelessness and perseverance are the main things.

— **What kind of gifts do you like to receive during holidays?**

— Any gift given from the heart.

— **What is your biggest wish for the New Year?**

— I would wish for all the good wishes of people around the world to come true.

— **Gowher, may your future wishes come true as well!**

— Thank you! May the New Year bring every family prosperity, happiness and honor! May our country be peaceful and our nation prosperous!

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