



pure devotees—not by professional musicians. Yet if Prabhupada’s disciples became proficient in their singing, Londoners would better appreciate Krishna Consciousness. The thought of these devotees preaching in England made Prabhupada ecstatic.

In the daily kirtan rehearsals, Prabhupada taught the devotees to chant Hare Krishna and other devotional songs, beginning with a slow tempo and building gradually. He would regularly interrupt and have them begin again. Listening carefully as Yamuna led the chanting, Prabhupada would stop her at times to correct her Sanskrit pronunciation.

—SRILA PRABHUPADA-LILAMRTA



**Yamuna:** The nine days our London party spent with Prabhupada in Montreal were a turning point in our spiritual lives. We spent our first Janmastami and Vyasa Puja in his presence. We received Gayatri mantra. He trained us in kirtan and gave us unlimited blessings. In the morning Srila Prabhupada had us come into the temple room around 9:00 AM, and we would sing the *Gurvastakam* and *Mangalacaranam* (*Vande ham*) prayers. He often asked me to lead, and would stop me to correct my pronunciation: “No, it is this way.” He hadn’t done that before. He also taught us what he called the afternoon melody for *Gurvastakam*. So we now had the morning and the

afternoon melodies, and he was rather keen on us following either of those melodies at the proper time. ❧

Anyone who chanted with Yamuna from that time on would have known that the propriety of the morning or evening melody of the *Gurvastakam* prayers remained an important distinction to her; and on some occasions she would sweetly sing the afternoon melody to a chanter if they did not know it.

Srila Prabhupada also began training the devotees in chanting the *Brahma Samhita* (*Govindam*) prayers each day, having them repeat each line after him and correcting any mispronunciations. One day, he elaborated on the prayer, encouraging the devotees to express their feelings through the chanting:

For offering prayers to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, you do not require any high qualification. It doesn’t matter. You can offer your prayer from any standard of life. Not that you have to become a very learned man, very scholarly man, and you have to present your prayers in very nicely selected words so that poetry, rhetoric, prosody, everything is there, metaphor. Nothing is required. Simply you have to express your feelings.

—LECTURE, AUG. 18, 1968

Prabhupada predicted that when the devotees chanted Hare Krishna, the people of London would hear the mantra, become devotees, and then enlighten others. Krishna Consciousness would grow. The only requirement was that the chanting be done purely, without any material motivation. Prabhupada’s enthusiasm was contagious, and as he spoke he filled his disciples with the same contagious enthusiasm.

When Mukunda asked Prabhupada if he had any specific instructions, Prabhupada replied with a story. In his youth, he had once seen a movie of Charlie Chaplin. The setting was a formal ball

