

## NON FILM



## TERE BAGAIR...

MADAN MOHAN was such a versatile composer that he could go from a *Jhumka gira re (Mera Saaya)* to a *Baiyan na dharo (Dastak)* to a *Tum jo mil gaye ho (Hanste Zakhm)* or *Zaroorat hai zaroorat hai (Manmauji)*. He produced wonders with every known singer, be it Mohammed Rafi, Talat Mehmood, Manna Dey, Asha Bhosle, Kishore Kumar and of course his favourite, Lata Mangeshkar. He worked with unorthodox lyricists like Rajinder Krishnan, Raja Mehdi Ali Khan and Kaifi Azmi. YRM's *Tere Bagair* commemorates the maestro's 85th birth anniversary (which fell on June 25) by bringing together 15 songs from his shelved films from 1964 to 1972. The songs have been re-recorded with additional instrumentation to enhance the overall sound quality. The album contains three songs each by Lata Mangeshkar and Asha Bhosle, one each by Talat Mehmood and Kishore Kumar and seven melodies by Mohammed Rafi.

After listening to *Phir wohi shaam* (Asha Bhosle), you realise Madan Mohan, way back in 1965, incorporated a fusion of classical, jazz and

western orchestration in different tempos. You can't believe your ears that *Aaj mujhe jal jaane bhi do* is not an RD-Kishore<sup>da</sup> number. RD was hugely influenced by Mexican and Country music and listening to *Aaj mujhe* tells you Madan Mohan's knowledge of the genres was no less. *Yeh duniya ek maikhaana hai* feels like typical RD-Asha club, cabaret number as well. Madan Mohan was known for his *ghazal* compositions and *Tum juda hokar* sung by Talat Mehmood gives a prime example of the composer's mastery of the genre.

He had a unique 'setting' with Mohammed Rafi and to a greater extent with Lata Mangeshkar and songs like *Kaise kategi zindagi tere baigar*, the opening song of the album and *Khile kamal si kaya*, sung by Rafi and Lata respectively proves that. The best song of the album, *Mere ashqon ka gham* is also sung by Lata. A two minute version of the same song hummed by the master himself serves as the cherry on top. An companion CD explains the metamorphoses of Madan Mohan's other unused tunes into the soundtrack of *Veer-Zaara*, making this two CD set a cherished collector's item.

DEVESH SHARMA