

BEST BUY

LEGENDS - MADAN MOHAN THE UNFORGETTABLE COMPOSER

HMV, Rs. 275 [five cassettes]

■ HMV comes up with this apt and timely tribute to one of the most versatile composers Madan Mohan, on the occasion of his 25th death anniversary. The composer, who believed in maintaining a low profile, and letting his music do the talking for him, was a perfectionist. Which is why he could come up with haunting melodies, most of them flawless, and almost each of them becoming a hit. Also all his compositions reached out to people because the legendary composer insisted on perfect lyrics, working with such stalwarts like Rajinder Krishan, Raja Mehdi Ali Khan, Kaifi Azmi and Majrooh Sultanpuri, to name a few. And to think that the composer had no formal training in music. Whatever work he did was on the basis of his instinct and his God-given talent. The five volumes here have the golden oldies in a digitally re-mastered form for heightened listening pleasure.

VOL. 1: This begins with a speech by the composer himself, followed by another speech by Lata Mangeshkar and Manna Dey. The period covered here

is from 1951 to 1958, and the songs featured include *Meri yaad mein* (Madhosh), *Chand madham hai* (Railway Platform), *Chal diye dil mera todke* (Fifty Fifty), *Do ghadi woh jo* (Gateway Of India), *Kaun aaya mere man ke dware* (Dekh Kabira Roya) and *Jaana tha humse door* (Adalat) to name a few. Madan Mohan himself sings two songs, *Hum pyar mein jal-newalon ko* (Jailor) and *Tum ho saath* (Mohar).

VOL. 2: The compositions here are from 1959 to 1964, and include *Bairan neend na aaye* (Chacha Zindabad), *Ja re badra bairi ja* (Bahana), *Woh bhooli dastan* (Sanjog), *Aap ki nazron ne samjha* (Anpadh), *Naina barse* (Woh Kaun Thi), sung by Madan Mohan himself with an anecdote by Lata Mangeshkar, *Agar mujhse mohabbat hai* (Aap Ki Parchhaiyan) and *Rang aur noor ki baat* (Gazal).

VOL. 3: Jagjit Singh, Jatin-Lalit, Mahendra Kapoor and Shiv Kumar Sharma talk about Madan Mohan here. Songs from the period 1964 to 1967 can be heard in this volume. Some of them are *Phir wohi shaam*



(Jahan Ara), *Khelo na mere dil se* (Haqeeqat), an unreleased song *Mere dil se aake lipat gayi* (Neela Akash), *Sapnon mein agar mere* (Dulhan Ek Raat Ki) and *Mera saya saath hoga* (Mera Saya).

VOL. 4: Songs recorded from 1968 to 1973 are featured here and include *Na tum bewafa ho* (Ek Kali Muskayee), *Teri aankhon ke siwa* (Chirag), *Baiyan na dharo* (Dastak), *Yeh duniya yeh mehil* (Heer Ranjha), *Bhor aayi gaya andhiyara* (Bawarchi) and *Duniya bananewale* (Hindustan Ki Kasam).

VOL. 5: The period covered here is from 1973 to 1980. This volume includes the most haunting numbers like *Tum jo mil gaye ho* and *Betaab dil*

ki tamanna (both from *Hanste Zakham*), *Rasme ulfat* (Dil Ki Rahen), *Har koi chahta hai ek muththi aasmaan* (Ek Muththi Aasman), *Dil dhoondta hai* (Mausam), *Mushkil hai jeena* (Sahib Bahadur) and *Hamare baad ab mehil mein* (Baaghi). The concluding remarks by Lata make for an interesting listening.

This is one compilation which really needs no recommendation. Soulful and heart-rending songs like these can hardly be heard in today's times. ●