



narendra kusnur
music

Melody Lane

('Woh kaun thi'), 'Zara si aahat' ('Haqeeqat'), 'Mera saaya saath hoga' ('Mera Saaya'), 'Teri aankhon ke siva' ('Chirag'), 'Baiyyan na dhara' ('Dastak') and 'Hai tere saath meri wafaa' ('Hindustan Ki Kasam') are just some of the Lata masterpieces here.

That apart, there are gems from Talat Mahmood ('Meri yaad mein' in *Madhosh* and 'Phir wohi shaam' in *Jahan Ara*), Mohammed Rafi ('Tumhare zulf ke saaye mein' in *Naunihal* and 'Yeh duniya yeh mehfil' in *Heer Ranjha*), Mukesh ('Bhooli hui yaadon' in *Sanjog*), Manna Dey ('Kaun aaya mere man ke dware' in *Dekh Kabira Roya*) and Kishore Kumar ('Zaroorat hai' in *Manmauji*).

A special feature is the inclusion of the Gulzar-penned *Dil dhoondta hai* from *Mausam*. Besides the Lata and Bhupinder renditions, one finds Madan Mohan singing the song in different tunes during private sessions. The presence of songs from unreleased films on Volume 5, and addresses by certain artistes, give a certain exclusivity to this collection.

Madan Mohan's songs were often accompanied by exceptional lyrics by the likes of Rajinder Krishan, Sahir Ludhianvi, Majrooh Sultanpuri, Raja Mehdi Ali Khan and Kaifi Azmi. Aided by the composer's sheer genius, we get some really great music. Though everybody may not be familiar with each song, this collection is truly worth treasuring.

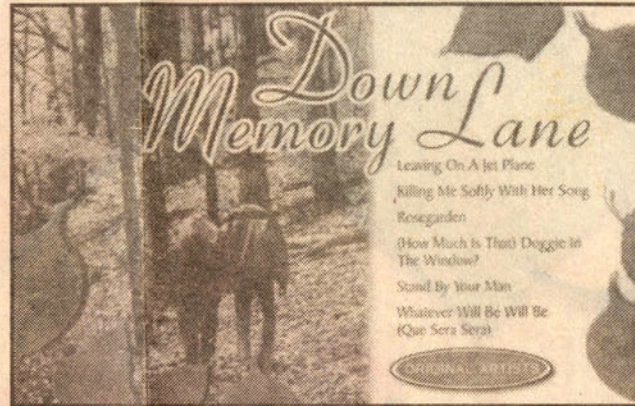
Down Memory Lane/ Various artistes, Sony Music, pop-evergreens, Rs 125.

Rating: ****

THOUGH this compilation doesn't have any set theme, it's got some really marvelous songs. Those born in the '50s and early '60s will specially remember their

teen days, when they heard these tunes on record players or on the radio.

The 18-song set starts with John Denver's somewhat-prophetic 'Leaving on a jet plane'. The other evergreen beau-



ties are Doris Day's 'Que sera sera', Willie Nelson's 'Always on your mind', Lynn Anderson's 'Rosegarden' and Roy Orbison's 'Only the lonely'.

We also find versions of songs popularised by others. For instance, 'When I need you' has been sung here by Albert Hammond, though we all know the Leo Sayer version and R D Burman's lift ('Tumse milke' in *Parinda*). 'Sealed with a kiss' - which inspired Anu Malik's *Josh* tune 'Hai mera dil' - is sung here by Bobby Vinton, though we're more familiar with Brian Hyland's interpretation.

The Elvis Presley-popularised 'Can't help falling in love' has been rendered here by Andy Williams, and the Roberta Flack hit 'Killing me softly' has been recorded by Johnny Mathis.

There's some good stuff by country stars Tammy Wynette and Johnny Cash, pop singer-guitarist J D Souther and hippy-wave star Scott McKenzie. Those who love vintage fare should check this out, even though some tunes are so old that today's youngsters don't know of their existence.

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new arrivals

45 Hot Hitz / Various artistes, Tips, dandiya music, Rs 55: For the forthcoming dandiya, here are some spruced-up versions of film and pop songs.



Aashiqui/ Abhijeet, T-Series, popular Hindi music, Rs 50: The ace playback singer releases his new album, with music by Nikhil-Vinay and lyrics by Faaiz Anwaar.

Piya Basanti/ Sultan Khan and Chitra, Sony Music, folk-pop, Rs 65: Sarangi maestro Sultan Khan on a singing spree. The title track is brilliant, and some of the other tunes are good enough to keep you humming.



Dada Remix/ Various artistes, Musicurrry, Marathi remixes, Rs 45: Remixes of songs from Dada Kondke films, including popular songs like 'Hil hil pori hila' and 'Kashi ga kashi'.

Companion/ Marco Saluan and Rakesh Chaurasia, Ninaad Music, fusion, Rs 75: Saluan's flamenco guitar and Chaurasia's bansuri attempt some fusion. The tune 'Explorers' is a masterpiece, but the other pieces just lack that extra edge.



Legends/ Madan Mohan, HMV, Hindi film, Rs 275 (five volumes).

Rating: *****

TWENTY-FIVE years after music director Madan Mohan's demise, his songs remain immortal. Even today, his ability to create refreshing tunes and his penchant for graceful orchestrations are admired.

For those who've adored his music, here's *Legends: Madan Mohan*, a five-volume compilation from HMV. From the 1951 movies *Ada* and *Madhosh* to later films like *Mausam*, *Laila Majnu* and *Chaalbaaz*, there are plenty of gems here.

By and large, Madan Mohan's brilliance can be gauged from the kind of songs he composed for Lata Mangeshkar. 'Hum pyar mein jalnewalon ko' (from *Jailor*), 'Ja re badra bairi ja' (*Bahana*), 'Wo bhooli dastaan' (*Sanjog*), 'Aap ki nazron ne samjha' (*Anpadh*) 'Lag ja gale'

