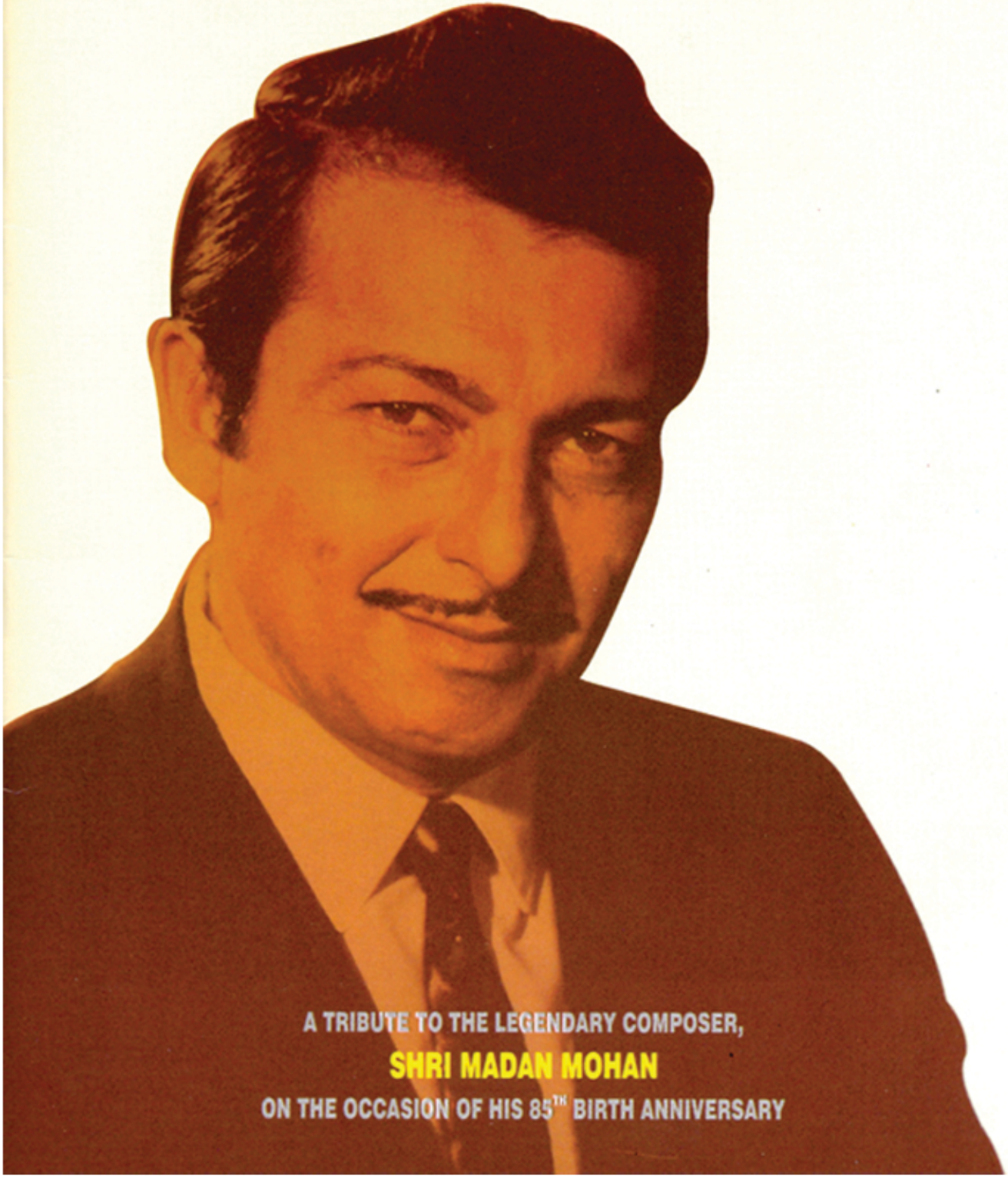
# Khazana

A Festival of Ghazals



A TRIBUTE TO THE LEGENDARY COMPOSER,

**SHRI MADAN MOHAN**

ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 85TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Rs. 2500/-

COMPLIMENTRY

No.: 25/ 469

The Oberoi

MUMBAI, INDIA

*presents*

# Khazana

A Festival of Ghazals

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THE LEGENDARY COMPOSER,

Madan Mohan ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 85TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

*In aid of*

CANCER PATIENTS AID ASSOCIATION

&

PARENTS ASSOCIATION THALASSEMIC UNIT TRUST

On 25th July 2009 From 7.00 p.m. Onwards at The Regal Room

Sponsored by : यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Union Bank of India

Supported by : 100 PIPERS, Carlsberg

Outdoor Publicity: CREATION

Media Relation Support: Sound Relations

Event Managed by: The Event Co

OUR BACKBONE... It was touching to see the spouses of the artistes there to support their other halves. Medha Jalota, Farida Udhas and Bina Aziz accompanied their husbands Anup, Pankaj and Talat while former cricketer Kiran More cheered on his wife Raavi More as she performed on stage. Touche.

# And time stood still...

*Khazana*, the annual festival of *ghazals*, entered its eighth year and on Saturday had its first event. In a hall bursting at the seams with an enthusiastic *ghazal*-loving audience, guests witnessed some soulful performances. Sitting, listening, enjoying and appreciating renditions of the late Madan Mohan (this year's fest is a tribute to the legendary music composer) by stalwart **Rajendra Mehta**, newcomer **Raavi More**, the mellifluous **Penaz Masani**, the talented **Anup Jalota** and **Talat Aziz** and the father-son duo of **Ajay** and **Abhijit Pohankar** were a mixed audience of **Anil Deshmukh, Shaina NC, Devendra Bharma, Pooja Misrra**, veteran singer **Rita Ganguly** and **YK Sapru** of the Cancer Patient's Aid Association (the two-day fest, organised by the Oberoi, is in aid of cancer patients).

Madan Mohan's son **Sanjeev Kohli** mentioned how proud he was that his father's work was being appreciated even three decades after his demise. A short film on Madan Mohan added the perfect touch to the night, which went on and on and on till 3 am... but while the singers were on stage, it seemed as though time literally stood still...

Sanjeev Kohli and Rita Ganguly light the lamp

# The Khazana Festival of Ghazals - 2009 dedicated to the Late Madan Mohan

This year's **'Khazana Festival of Ghazals'** has been dedicated to the Late Madan Mohan.

The top Ghazal singers of India, over two days, regale Ghazal lovers in Mumbai at an event that is held every year in the month of July at the Oberoi Hotel in Mumbai.

Bhupinder and Mitali Singh, Rajendra Mehta, Talat Aziz, Rita Ganguly, Ahmed and Mohd. Hussain, Penaaz Masani, Anup Jalota and Pankaj Udhas are the top draws at this prestigious event.

This year, the organizers, the Oberoi Group and the Cancer Association, along with the artistes, have dedicated the event to the memory of the Late Madan Mohan. This treasure of Ghazals will unfold on 25th and 26th July

An 11 minute film on Madan Mohan will be screened at the event and each Artiste will sing a Ghazal composed by the Late Madan Mohan as part of their performance

A fitting tribute to the legendary composer on the occasion of his 85th birth anniversary

Talat Aziz with Sanjeev Kohli

Pankaj Udhas

Anup Jalota

## Tears and cheers

It's that time of the year again, when musical melodies from the Indian classical genre soothe harried Mumbaiites. The annual *ghazal* festival 'Khazana', tirelessly put together by **Pankaj Udhas, Talat Aziz, Anup Jalota** and a number of other *ghazal* veterans, was announced the other afternoon. While last year's festival was dedicated to the late Begum Akhtar, this year is a tribute to the legendary Madan Mohan.

Veterans in the field like **Rita Ganguly** (a disciple of Begum Akhtar), **Penaz Masani, Bhupinder** and **Mitali Singh** as well as youngsters like **Raavi More** and **Neha Chimmalgi** were present; father-son duo of **Ajay** and **Abhijit Pohankar** are also part of this year's concert in aid of cancer patients. Madan Mohan's son **Sanjeev Kohli** showed vignettes of his father's life, which brought tears to the artistes' eyes. But then, isn't emotion the foundation of all great music?

Bhupinder Singh can't hold back his tears

Penaz Masani

# IN MEMORY OF MADAN MOHAN

**Pankaj Udhas dedicates his festival of ghazals, Khazana, to the music director who was instrumental in making ghazals popular through Bollywood**

KEVIN LOBO

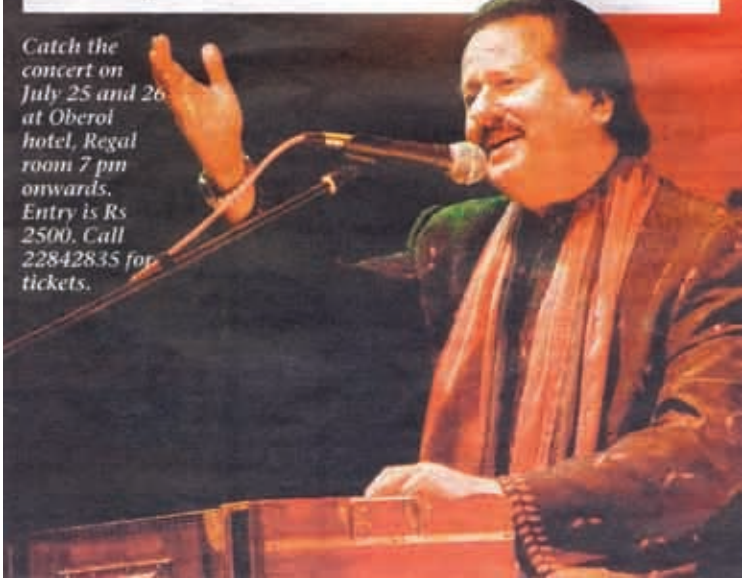
The stronghold of ghazals might have been vanquished from the electronic landscape Bollywood has become today. But there are people who want to keep the tradition alive. Pankaj Udhas's efforts after seven years have met with some success with his festival, Khazana.

The two-day festival will feature established singers like Rajendra Mehta, Bhupinder, Rita Ganguly, Anup Jalota, Talat Aziz, Pankaj Udhas among others. "Every year we give two to four upcoming singers a platform among the established singers. This year, the festival will feature ex-Indian wicketkeeper, Kiran More's wife, Raavi More who sings very well and two other new artists," says Pankaj Udhas.

The festival also has a tradition of honouring the memory of a famous personality. This year the legendary music director Madan Mohan is honoured on his 85th birth anniversary. A prolific artist, along with Begum Akhtar, he is responsible for popularising the form through his songs for Bollywood.The best of his music has been sung by Mangeshkar. Pankaj says, "I was too young to have met him, but I have colleagues in the industry who have. I remember his son had made a short film, about ten minutes long, on his father's life. A lot of people from the industry were present. After the movie, I saw that everyone's eyes were moist. Bhupinder Singh couldn't control himself, he was crying like a small kid. Bhupinder recorded his first ever track for the Hindi film industry with Madan Mohan."

To celebrate the singer's life, each musician will sing at least one track composed by Madan Mohan in his or her interpretation. The most interesting among the performances promises to be Pt Ajay Pohankar who will be accompanied by his son, Abhijeet Pohankar. With a classical background, the senior musician will present ghazals in the style thumris are sung in.

The present state of ghazals in pop-culture is a matter of concern. That's probably the reason why Pankaj's next album will fuse modern sounds with ghazals as its base. "The rise of reality shows has given many talented singers a shorter road to fame. Most people don't want to devote time to exploring the various styles in which ghazals can be sung in. I am not pessimistic about its future though. Maybe, all that Bollywood needs is another Madan Mohan," he smiles.



*Catch the concert on July 25 and 26 at Oberoi hotel, Regal room 7 pm onwards. Entry is Rs 2500. Call 22842835 for tickets.*