

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A MUSICIAN ON MY OWN TERMS

Music composer Mithoon talks about his latest song *Mar Jaayen* from *Loveshhuda* and looks back at his career as he completes a decade in the industry



Mithoon

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How has your musical journey been?

It feels good that I have come so far and achieved success in my career. Music makes me happy. I have composed music that is close to my heart and never been influenced by trends. I have always been a musician on my own terms, which is extremely fulfilling. Each day, when I enter the studio, I am excited to compose something new.

How did *Mar Jaayen* happen?

Back in 2006, I was approached to compose a song for *Bas Ek Pal*. I had offered the makers three melodies — *Tere Bin*, *Kuch Is Tarah* and a melody that was more of a scratch. At that time, Girish Kumar would attend music sittings as he was working as an assistant in his company. While working on *Loveshhuda*, Girish still had that melody in his mind. He reminded me about it. At first, I couldn't recollect but later, I

found the scratch. He wanted the song for his film. I connected with Sayeed Quadri *saab* who had penned the lyrics. We changed the words a little bit to give it a fresh appeal. Sayeed *saab* is one of the most prolific and substantial poets in the world today. We share a great rapport and enjoy working with each other.

You have collaborated with Atif Aslam again. What kind of an equation do you share with him?

I have always had a good time while working with Atif. He has sung my compositions really well and I love his voice. But at the same time, I am not hell-bent on working with a particular singer. For me, melody is the king. I am sure if I have a good melody, then any good singer can make it sound better.

What is the most important element while composing?

For me, the lyrics are the most important element in a song. The words are the face while the song and tune are heard by

the audience at a subconscious level. People start connecting to the lyrics and the melody slowly seeps in. I have always focused on good lyrical content for all my songs. Now, I have started writing lyrics on my own and am enjoying this phase of my career.

When and how did you learn music?

I started learning music at the age of 11. My father (Naresh Sharma) was a leading music arranger. He has composed background music for over 200 films. Since my father was busy, he sent me to the right people to train myself. He used to observe me closely and would often see what I am practising. He listened to the tunes that I created. My father believed that to be a musician, you should listen to your inner self. No one can teach you how music composition is done. This helped me create my own style. The entire credit goes to him for showing me the right path when I was teenager.

When it comes to Bollywood music, which has been your favourite decade?

I grew up in the 90s and I am fond of that decade's music. At the same time, my father would make me hear the works of stalwarts like Madan Mohan, Laxmikant-Pyarelal and Mohammed Rafi. But if I had to pick one decade, it would be the 70s as I enjoy listening to that era's music.

Are you a spiritual person?

I think faith can never be quantified. I don't necessarily connect with religion as I believe that God is the father of all mankind and loves everyone unconditionally.

Do you consciously keep a low profile?

I am an introvert. Crowd and noise are a complete turn off for me. I do not believe in the theory of out of sight, out of mind. So I do not see the need to attend all the parties in town. These things actually derail me for days which ultimately affect my work commitments.

Many composers are also judging reality shows but we haven't seen you in one of them.

I have been open to the idea of judging a reality show and to be honest, I have been approached quite often. But it's just that I am not convinced with the kind of circumstances in which they work.

Singles are making a big comeback. Would we see you doing one in the near future?

In our country, music is too attached to cinema so the trend of singles picking up again is a welcome change. I am happy about it. Ultimately, it is the music that is being appreciated. I have heard a few of the singles that have released in the last few months and they are good. I do have a couple of offers and in 2016 you will see me coming up with a few singles.

BAND STAND

REGGAE RAJAHS / REGGAE MUSIC CREW

India's first reggae sound system, this crew of DJs and MCs comprises reggae entertainers and promoters from New Delhi, currently with a base in Goa. The core of Reggae Rajahs comprises DJ MoCity, Diggy Dang, General Zoot, BeLights and Ziggy B. Formed in 2009, they have dedicated themselves to spreading the sounds of dub, reggae and dancehall music across India.

Reggae Rajahs have opened for Snoop Dogg aka Snoop Lion in New Delhi and have also shared the stage with Dub Inc (France), Million Stylez (Sweden), Ziggy Recado (Holland), Tippa Irie, Apache Indian, Gaudi, Dub Phyzix (all UK), Supa Bassie and Sargento Garcia (Spain), Subatomic Sound, South Rakkas Crew (both USA) and Dreadsquad (Poland).

Says General Zoot, "Emerging in the 1950s in Jamaica, the reggae sound system is one of the most enduring traditions in modern music history. The selector (who plays the music) and the MC (who keeps the crowd entertained) are the two conductors of this immersive, interactive musical journey. Speakers that are customised to bring



out the deepest of bass frequencies enable the journey, resulting in a unique musical experience that cannot be replicated. Taken from Jamaica to all parts of the world, it is now time to sow the seeds of reggae sound system culture in India."

On their a-ha moment: The year 2013 was a big one for the Reggae Rajahs. They started their own online weekly radio show and also made their second appearance on the European tour circuit, performing at major

festivals in Spain, Hungary, Croatia, Slovakia and Poland. In 2014, they embarked on a world tour starting in South East Asia, followed by their maiden voyage to Jamaica. They went on to travel to South America as well as making their third appearance on the European summer festival circuit.

On their brand of music: Since then, they've gone on to become a truly international sound with DJ MoCity representing the crew in Dubai, Kuala Lumpur and

Istanbul, BeLights in Malta and Diggy Dang, General Zoot and Ziggy B in New Delhi. "We have dedicated ourselves to spreading the sounds of dub, reggae and dancehall music across India," says Ziggy B. "Since the reggae scene is so small here in India, it has been vital for us to travel the world to see how other sound systems, DJs and MCs all around the world operate. It has been really inspiring," says General Zoot.

On their influences: Their influences include Anthony B, Alborosie, Don Carlos, Shabba Ranks, Bounty Killer, Buju Banton, Steel Pulse, Capleton, Luciano, Mr Vegas, Ninja Man, Super Cat, Sugar Minott, Cocoa Tea, Gregory Isaacs, John Holt, Jacob Miller, Junior Kelly, Sizzla, Turbulence, Vybz Kartel, Yellowman, Gentleman, Tippa Irie, Black Uhuru, Alpha Blondy and Manu Chao.

On their way forward: Reggae Rajahs are curating India's first celebration of reggae sound system culture which they've termed Go Sunsplash. Coming up on December 16 in North Goa, the day-long event features a number of international and homegrown acts including Dub Smugglers, Delhi Sultanate, Forelock, General Levy. They dream of collaborating with Damien Marley one day.

— Kasmin.Fernandes@timesgroup.com

98.3 FM RADIO MIRCHI

Best of Bollywood songs for the week ending Dec 19, 2015

Last week	Peak Position	Song Title	Album Title	
1	3	2	Deewani Mastani	Bajirao Mastani
2	1	1	Gerua	Dilwale
3	5	4	Pinga	Bajirao Mastani
4	2	2	Agar Tum Saath Ho	Tamasha
5	4	2	Matargashti	Tamasha
6	7	6	Malhari	Bajirao Mastani
7	6	1	Tumhe Apna Banane	Hate Story 3
8	-	-	Aayat	Bajirao Mastani
9	11	8	Manma Emotion Jaage	Dilwale
10	8	1	Prem Ratan Dhan Payo	Prem Ratan Dhan Payo
11	-	-	Janam Janam	Dilwale
12	9	5	Heer Toh Badi Sad Hai	Tamasha
13	10	1	Prem Leela	Prem Ratan Dhan Payo
14	-	-	Tere Bin	Wazir
15	12	8	Tu Isqa Mera	Hate Story 3
16	13	10	Jaite Diye	Prem Ratan Dhan Payo
17	14	13	Wajah Tum Ho	Hate Story 3
18	15	1	Gulaabo	Shaandaar
19	16	1	Main Hoon Hero Tera Hero	Hero
20	20	2	Tung Tung Baje	Singh Is Biling

■ New entry in the chart ▲ Highest gainer ♥ Highest loser
Peak Position: The highest position ever gained by the track till date.
Compiled basis retail sales, on-air requests, digital streaming, downloads and research.

gaana.com TOP 10 ANGREZI WEEK ENDING 19 DECEMBER 2015

Song Title	Album Title	Artiste / Band
1	Hello	25 Adele
2	Sorry	Purpose Justin Bieber
3	Hotline Bling	Hotline Bling Drake
4	Adventure Of A Lifetime	A Head Full Of Dreams Coldplay
5	Can't Feel My Face	Beauty Behind The Madness The Weeknd
6	What Do You Mean?	Purpose Justin Bieber
7	On My Mind	Delirium Ellie Goulding
8	How Deep Is Your Love	De Maxx - Long Player 35 Calvin Harris & Disciples
9	Never Forget You	Single MNEK & Zara Larsson
10	You Don't Own Me (ft G-Eazy)	Regime Music Societe Grace

■ New entry in the chart ● Movie sound track ▲ Highest gainer ♥ Highest loser

These are the international songs compiled across all genres, ranked by radio airplay audience impression

▶ Listen to all the latest hits on gaana.com mobile app

ARTISTE ALERT

AMEYA DABLI/ SUFI AND CLASSICAL SINGER

He belongs to that growing breed of corporates who turned to music full-time. Ameya Dabli had a 14-odd corporate stint with various MNCs. "However, since the past couple years, I've been keen to devote more time to music with a vision to develop and create musical concepts and themes that would be universally appealing and soothing." It was with this intent that he formed Divine Chords, a congregation of like-minded musicians. One concept that sets them apart is embellishing the usually drab main ceremony at weddings with chants, mantras, songs interspersed with explanations and live ragabased music for the assembled guests to feel involved in the ceremony.

Ameya's devotional album *Devadhivea* released a couple of years ago has nine tracks including a few shlokas. Ameya mostly performs devotional and spiritual music, ghazals and Sufi gayaki and equally loves to dish out western soft rock and select Bollywood music. "If I was to choose one special gig, it would be one to a packed house of over 25,000 people at the International Convention Centre at Hartford, Connecticut during the 2010 Guru Purnima celebrations in the presence of my spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar."

He got his training from his mother Dr Anuradha Dabli, who's a disciple of Prabha Atré. "Whenever she used to do *riyaz*, I used to go and sit with her and try and imitate her. Soon this became a daily activity and from age five, I started training with her — a practice that



Ameya Dabli

we still continue." He briefly trained with Sunil Borgaokar.

Ameya counts Ustad Bade Gulam Ali Khan sahab, Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, Lata Mangeshkar, Jagjit Singh, Shankar Mahadevan, Bryan Adams and Ronan Keating among his inspiration. Ask him about his hopes and dreams, and Ameya says, "Music is not just an art form but also a form of worship for it has the ability to address and communicate every single emotion that we as humans experience in our life. I hope to create music, which irrespective of its genre or language, will give the listeners an experience that is, in fact, blissful music and beyond!"

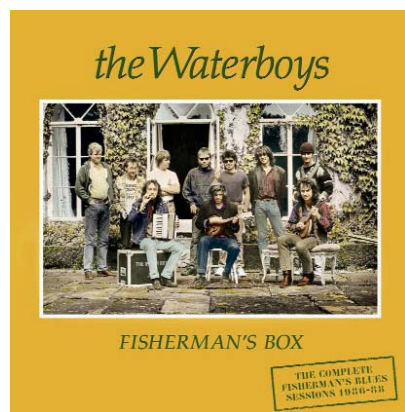
— Kasmin.Fernandes@timesgroup.com

REVIEWS

FISHERMAN'S BOX (SET OF 6 DISCS) — THE WATERBOYS

WARNER, ₹2,099

Folk Rock: The Waterboys is a group who have managed to pull off the peculiar blend of Celtic folk with rock 'n roll pretty well. Formed by lead singer and guitarist Mike Scott, this collection of music features songs that are complemented well with traditional instruments like the mandolin and other Celtic instruments as well. The first disc has a highlight in the form of the traditional Celtic gem called *Girl Of The North Country*, whose music is so evocative, you might find yourself wishing you were in the highlands in Scotland. In this song, the fiddle and mandolin play off well against each other. The lead singer's vocals might not be a highlight here, but it's the tonality that matters. *Too Close To Heaven*, from the second disc, features similar instrumentation, where he somehow manages to sound like the Bee Gees' Barry Gibb and Mick Jagger rolled into one. Other cuts that are easy on the ear are *The Wayward Wind*, *Saints And Angels*, the mellow *Bring It On Home To Me*. Higherbound's lyrics are almost story-like, inviting the listener to stop what they're



doing and pay attention. *The Prettiest Girl In Church* is a delightfully quaint song with an equally quaint title. It harks back to a simpler time. *Lonesome And A Long Way From Home* is reminiscent of *Can't Find My Way Home*, which is a song from Eric Clapton's old group Blind Faith's sole studio album. All in all, an interesting exploration of a traditional genre.

— Reagan.Rasquinha@timesgroup.com

SUNSHINE DAYDREAM — GRATEFUL DEAD, RHINO, ₹1,199

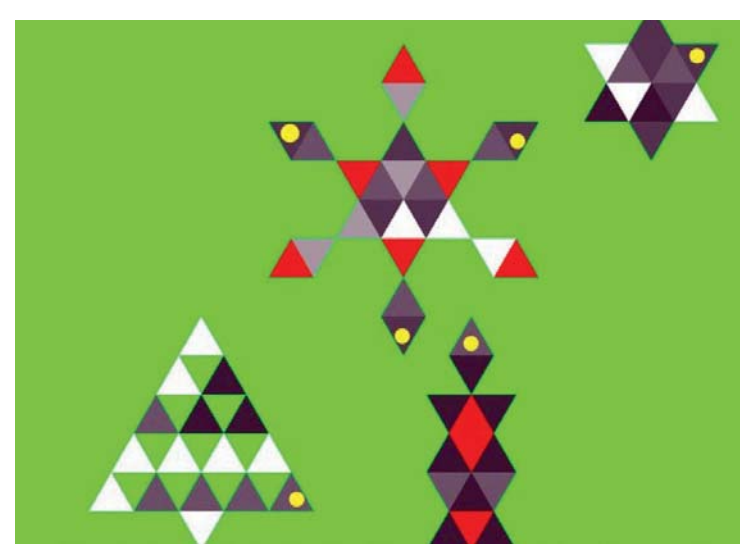
Rock: Loyal Grateful Dead fans are known as Deadheads and whether you happen to be a diehard fan of the legendary group or just like to dabble in their music now and then, this live set is definitely worth listening to several times. This is essentially a soundtrack to a documentary film of a concert that the group did in 1972 but the album can be listened to just as well on its own. The Dead's live sets are often the stuff of legend (they were known as a live act, and not a studio band even though they did release studio albums) and over time, this concert has become a favourite among Deadheads, if fan discussion forums are anything to go by. As for the music, it has a certain looseness that is part of their signature sound. And while their playing can sometimes be ramshackle (you might end up wishing they also played uptempo songs more often) more often than not, the group manages to keep the music fairly cohesive, without rambling all over the place. The intro to *Sugaree* sets the stage and mood for the songs that follow. *Black-Throated*



Wind and *China Cat Sunflower* are also highlights. *Playing In The Band* gets a lengthy run at 20 minutes but it's the half-hour long *Dark Star* that is the centrepiece of the set, as was the case in many of their live gigs. The beautiful *Sing Me Back Home* and blissed-out *Sugar Magnolia* are also in here.

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HOT DOWNLOAD



A couple of rogue elves within the Ableton workshop have been busy working on a stocking stuffer for music makers. Their handiwork is an app they call Little Drummer Toy. Unlike your novelty socks, this gift will keep on giving. With each go you'll be paired with someone different from around the world to make a seasonal jingle. Plus there'll be different wintery scenes to play in throughout the holiday period. An easy-to-use, real-time composition app. Although it forces you to work within pre-defined parameters — you're more or less improvising within the existing template of a melancholy holiday jingle — the anonymous collaboration aspect is cool.

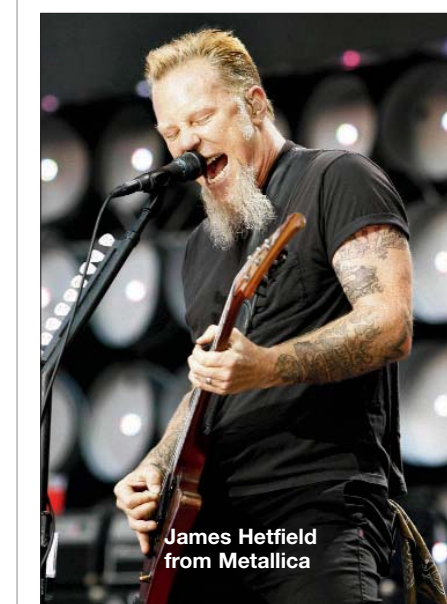
BEATS BUY

Two new speakers have come to India to broadcast ear candy to music geeks. SP-925BT — a stereo music cube — and SP-906BT which has a sweet acoustic effect have been launched by Genius. The SP-925BT is armed with the Bluetooth 4.0 capability. It has two powerful speakers housed on two sides of the cube, delivering a full range of 360 degree projected sound. A passive radiator bass driver subwoofer on the bottom pushes out an exceptional bass effect. Once fully charged, the speaker offers up to eight hours of continuous music playback. The speaker comes with a built-in microphone which means you will not miss any important calls during music playback. The device also supports Aux-in function to plug and play where wireless option is not available. The cute puck-sized SP-906BT speaker comes with Bluetooth 4.1 capability. The crisp audio quality and deep bass performance of the speaker can impress anyone with its acoustic effect. The compact SP-906BT offers five hours of play time on full charge. Like SP-925BT, this speaker also supports hands-free calling. It is also available in five stunning colour options — black, blue, green, orange and red.



BEATS BUZZ

Metallica teases new album after absence



James Hetfield from Metallica

One of the most influential acts in heavy metal, Metallica has hinted that a new album is getting closer after a gap of nearly a decade. In a holiday video sent to fans, frontman James Hetfield offered season's greetings from inside a studio before guiding the paws of his cat to hit play on a recording. Fans had the chance to listen to 15 seconds of unmistakable Metallica with a thrashing rhythm guitar line and an indecipherable lyric in Hetfield's raspy voice. The video immediately renewed speculation that a new Metallica album will come soon — the first since 2008's *Death Magnetic*. Metallica in the 1980s helped create the thrash metal genre, known for its aggression and focus on musicality as opposed to the more flamboyant and pop-influenced glam metal acts. The California-based band has only one show scheduled in 2016 — a concert in San Francisco on the eve of the city's turn hosting the Super Bowl, American football's championship game.

Taylor Swift to release video on New Year's eve

Pop star Taylor Swift will give her fans a special present on New Year's eve by releasing the music video of her single *Out Of The Woods*. The 26-year-old singer will premiere the official music video for her latest single on December 31, reported a portal. "I can't wait to show you the video for *Out Of The Woods!* It's premiering 12/31 on @NYRE with @RyanSeacrest. #OOTWMusicVideo (sic)," Swift tweeted. The songstress has apparently filmed the video in between shows on her Australia/New Zealand tour last month. *Out Of The Woods* serves as the sixth single off Swift's 1989 album.



Taylor Swift