

Time Freezes Inside a Black Hole

Koi sagar dil ko behla-

ta nahin, Dil diya dard liya,

1966. Dilip Kumar portrays the

tragedy king to the hilt. Rafi's

voice is mellow and sad, and

reflective, lending soul to his

actor, Main koi pattar nahin

insaan hun/Kaise keh dun

gam se ghabrata nahin.

ne of the most ground-breaking discoveries of the 20th century was the relativity of time. In some movies, you have seen that time stops, it freezes. Imagine flash, for instance, time can run slow for him. Physics can explain this. It is possible inside the black hole, on the event horizon. This is possible due to gravitational time dilation. For black holes, time, a second becomes infinitely long that there exists singularity, meaning time tends to freeze. So, a distant observer would observe time nearly paused or frozen inside a black hole.





ohammed Rafi, the singer whose voice made hearts throb. He lent soul to the handsome talented actors, called heart throbs, and was born on 24 December, 1924. We celebrate his birth centenary this year. Writing anything in praise of Rafi's singing is

like a firefly showing off its dazzle in front of a blazing sun. His career spanned decades (1940s to 1970s), he sang the playback for actors, from Dilip Kumar to Rishi Kapoor. He sang for three generations of the Kapoor family, Prithviraj, Raj, Shammi, Shashi and Rishi Kapoor. We celebrate his centenary by highlighting his qualities as a singer, be it classical, folk or fast beat songs.

He was trained in *Hindustani* classical music. Many songs prove his mettle in singing songs based on classical *Ragas*. An example is a song, Kuhu Kuhu bole kovaliya. (Suvarna Sundari, 1957) in the classical mould, sung by Rafi and Lata with the music direction by Adi Narayana Rao. The superb classical duet is based on four Ragas (Sohini Bahar, Juanpuri and Yaman). Rafi and Lata are in step with each other, singing the Ragas and blending their voices seamlessly. Their flawless rendering of the song earned Rafi and Lata the National Award. The other song which comes to the mind is Madhuban mein Radhika nache re (Kohinoor, 1958). More about this later.

SNIPPET: After Mahatma Gandhi's assassination, Rajendra Krishan, the lyricist, wrote a song, Suno suno ae duniya walon Bapu ki ye amar kahani. It was sung by Rafi and became very popular. Pandit Nehru liked it so much that he invited Rafi to sing the song for Independence Day celebrations in 1948. Rafi was honoured with a silver medal by Nehru. Rafi had a knack for modulating his voice for the actor who would sing on the screen, as also the mood and occasion the song is to be picturised for.



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tion. Dosti (1966) was a movie by

newbies, Laxmikant Pyarelal as

music directors, Sudhir Sawant

and Sushil Kumar played blind and

lame friends in the movie. Rafi

asked L-P to arrange a meeting

with the young actors to get a feel of

their voices. This resulted in a

superhit film, riding on Rafi's excel-

lent songs. Chahunga main tujhe

saanjh savere (He won a Filmfare

award for this song), and Jaane

walon jara, mud ke dekho mujhe,

sung with lot of emoting by the

blind Sudhir Sawant, has a

poignancy and longing in Rafi's

voice. The lyrics go, main tumhare

Johnny Walker (Sar io tera

chakraye) and Mehmood (Hum kale

hain to kya hua dilwale hain)

speaks volumes of his talent as a

carefree, but melodious conversa-

tion. His range was exceptional, be

it soft romantic songs, Meri Duniya

mein tum aavee from the film Heer

Ranjha or O Duniya ke rakhwale

from the film Baiju Bawara, where

at the climax of the song, he struck

the highest notes humanly possible.

He sang for all music directors, be it

A, B, or C grade films, the tune had

to appeal to him. This tribute to

Rafi will celebrate the songs he

sang for actors from 1950s to 1970s.

Five songs of each actor have been

selected. It is a personal choice.

there can be other songs according

to one's preferences.

His modulation of voice for

tarah, ek insaan hun.

Lending Souls to newbies, Laxmikant Pyarelal as music directors, Sudhir Sawant and S Kumar played blind and lame friends in the movie. Rafi asked L-P to arrange a meeting with the young actors to get a feel of their voices

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Main zindagi ka saath nibhata chala gaya, Hum Dono, 1961. A simple song of life lessons with exceptional lyrics by Sahir, it was composed by Jaidev. Rafi sang in a soft, carefree voice. Dev said that this song was the philosophy of his life.

Din dhal jaye hai, raat na jaye, Guide, 1965. This is a somber song of failed love, sung in a heartbroken voice by Rafi. This was so emotionally sung that Dev said Rafi made it easy for him to emote on the screen. Hear how Rafi gives a turn to vaad and satave.

pukare chale gaye, *Kala* with beautiful humming and *alaap*. Filmed on Dev and

exuberance for life, reflected in Rafi's rendering of the song,

Rafi sang 97 songs for Dev, all superb, one is spoilt for a choice, many under the baton of S. D. Burman

Hum bekhudi mein tumko Pani, 1958. Rafi begins the song

Jinhein naaz hai

Hind par woh kahan

hain. Pvaasa. 1957. Sahir's

searing lyrics, sung in low

notes by Rafi to minimal

music, is a master composi-

tion by S. D. Burman. The

lyrics are the king here

and Rafi has done full

justice to them.

Sawan ke mahine mein, Sharabi, 1964. The story of an alcoholic, this song has three variations, one sad, one peppy and one where Dev pours a drink and introspects, Sochta hun main, pivun na pivun. Rafi brings out the slurred speech of

a drunk. He was a tee-

Snippet: Rafi lived in a *chawl*

in his struggling years and didn'

have a place to do riyaaz. He

would go to Marine beach to do it

Suraiya, the singer-actress,

noticed him and invited him

home to do his practice.

iavehein to manwa ma kasak hoibe kari. Gang Jamuna, 1961. This boisterous naughty Bhojpuri folk song is as fresh today as it was 60 years back. It has a rustic charm, wonderful variation set to foot tapping drums. Dilip Kumar has danced with a gusto of a villager, uninhibited and spirited. Rafi had a mastery in invoking a flirtatious turn to his voice, Ankh mil jaye hein sajaniva se to nachan lagi hein.

Nain lad

Mere pairon mein ghungru bandha de to phir meri chaal dekh le, Sangharsh, 1970. Rafi's impish charm comes through this song of a youth yearning for a bride.

the Elvis Presley of India

Mujhe duniya walon, Sharabi na samjho, Leader, 1964. Rafi sings the song as if he is drunk. The opening of the song, la la la la, is sung masterfully at a high pitch.

afi sang 75 songs for Dilip Kumar, reflecting on the actor's dicious selection of films. Most of Dilip's songs were comsed by Naushad with lyrics by Shakeel Badayuni.

Aaj purane rahon se koi mujhe awaaz na de. Aadmi, 1968. A lame Dilip Kumar on crutches sings this song. Hear how Rafi has sung the song in a high pitch. He sings with lot of 'gam,' dard mein doobe geet na de, gam ka sisakta saaz na de.

> Snippet: Rafi was known for his anony mous charity. He would send money orders to people if they asked for help. Naushad related an incident then they were walking on a road a beggar came and asked for alms Rafi put his hand in his pocket and gave away all the money he had.

aushad said that at least he should

have counted the money he had

given. Rafi replied that when

he gives me, why should I?

The most fruitful relationship between a singer and an actor,

llah doesn't count the money

Kaun hai jo sapno mein

aaya, Jhuk gaya aasmaan, 1968 Hear how Rafi belts out, O Priya aaaa. The orchestration is ominous, foretelling a grim event at the end of the song.

Mera prem patra padhkar, Sangam, 1964. The only song of Rafi in the film. Here, the lover has a burning desire to declare



Man re tu kahe na dhir

dhare, Chitralekha, 1964.

simple tune by Roshan was voted

the best song of Hindi Cinema

by a poll conducted by the mag-

azine *Outlook* in 2010.

Sahir's spiritual lyrics put to a

iave beete dino ki, Dil Ek Mandir, 1963 Rafi sings in the poignant voice of a lover, remembering his Ex, who is married off while he was away, abroad for studies. Touching lyrics of a broken heart, *Din jo pakheru* hote/ Pinjare mein main rakh leta/ palta unko jatan se/moti ke dane deta.

Rafi sang 65 songs for Pradeep Kumar.

Ustadon ke ustad, 1963. A

gem of a song, hauntingly

sung by Rafi and

composed by Ravi.

Yaad na

Rajendra Kumar

Rafi sang 124 songs for him

Yeh ansu mere dil ki zubaan hai, Humrahi, 1963. Rafi sings this melodramatic song with soft tones and a high pitch. Ankh se tapki jo chingari/har aansu mein chabi tumhari.

Hunswale tera jawab nahin, Gharana, 1961. A unique picturisation of the song filmed on Rajendra Kumar and Asha Parekh.

Hari darshan ko aaj,

Baiju Bawra, 1952. Arguably one of the best bhaians of Hindi cinema. Rafi initially refused to sing this song because of its tough composition. But Jaushad insisted on him and made him go through lot of rehearsals the rest is history. Hear the opening, *Hari Om*, sung so flawlessly. It is based on Raag Malkauns.

Zindagi bhar nahin bhulegi woh barsat ki raat, Barsaat ki raat, 1960. Romantio lyrics by Sahir, the song was sung in soft tones by Rafi. One of the best Rafi songs under the baton of Roshan



Maine shayad tumhein pehle bhi. Barsaat ki raat. Rafi has sung. The end of the 1960. A simple melody, it will warm the heart of any lover, song, where Rafi takes his voice to the highest pitch such is the power of humanly possible Rafi's voice. Rakhwale! Rakhwale!

An actor of 1950s and 1960s, he had the maximum number of releases during this period. Rafi sang 105 songs for him.

Do ghadi who jo paas aa baithe, Gateway of India, 1957 This duet of Rafi and Lata is in form of a conversation, filmed in the confines of a room.

Khoya khoya chand, Kala

bazaar, 1960. A song full of

lyrics by Shailendra.

The story goes that at this high pitch. Rafi's hroat started bleed ng. Naushad clarified in an interview that nothing like this hap pened, but Rafi was dvised voice rest for some time.

bhi jaaye to kya hai. *Pyaasa*, 1957. Guru Dutt plays a poor poet, his Nazms are print ed by a con publisher without his consent. The publisher declares the poet dead to boost the sales of the book. Guru Dutt appears at the launch of the book to sing this iconic song. Jala do, Jala do is nhoonk dalo veh duniya. Rafi takes his voice to a very high pitch.

> Tu mere saamne **hai,** Suhagan, 1969. A soft, seductive song by Rafi for a husband who wants to sleep with his wife. The catch is that due to his heart condition, the doctor has forbidden sex. Very carefully worded lvrics show the state of the husband's mind.

Rafi sang just 25 songs for Guru Dutt, but the songs from *Pvaasa* and Kagaz ke phool are iconic songs, which can easily be included amongst the top 10 songs of Rafi.

Dekhi zamane ki yaari, Kagaz ke phool, 1959 This theme song of the film written by Kaifi Azmi is a master class for any singer. It starts with the youth of the hero, a film director. There is celebration of life, waqt hai meherban/ arzoo hai jawan. When his career declines, Pal bhar ki khushiyan hain aari/bichde sabhi baari baari. Then, his downfall. Ud ia. ud ia pyaase bhanwaren/ ras na milega khaaron mein/ kagaz ke phool iahan khilte hain/baith na un

gulzaaron mein. Chaudwein ka

chaand ho, Chaudwein ka chaand, 1964. Rafi displays the loving intimacy of a husband who has returned home late to find his wife asleep. He won a Filmfare award for this song.

Rafi contributed to Shammi's yahoo image. Rafi sang 180 songs for him, the maximum for an actor. Baar baar dekho, hazaar baar dekho. China Town, 1962. A song so popular that it is still played in musi-

cal events. It is a dance num-

ber, full of Shammi's antics and wild steps.

Chahe koi mujhe junglee kahe, Junglee, 1961. This single song contributed to the image and persona of Shammi Kapoor. The way Rafi yells Yahooo and Suku (Suku in another song) made Shamm

> Is rang badalti duniya bitha kar. Brahmachari, 1968. **mein,** Raj Kumar, 1964. Å penone breath by Rafi on Shammi's sive Rafi singing for a lovelorn Shammi Kapoor on the screen.

chehra, Kashmir ki kali, 1964. Rafi does wonders here, the way he stretches *taaareef* to suit Shammi's style. An O. P. Navvar composition.

Dil ke jharoke pe tujhko

The first stanza was sung in

suggestion. He received a

Filmfare award for this song.

ter of Shah Jahan as he remembers his deceased wife Mumtaz. He won a Filmfare award for this song.

Snippet: In 1968, Rafi

in the Best male

nominations. Dil ke

haroke se, Main gaun

tum so jayo, both from

Brahmachari and

Babul ki duain lete ja

fom Neel Kamal.

ategory for all three

Jo wada kiya who nib-

hana padega, *Taj Mahal*,

1963. Rafi sings for the charac-

Dil jo na keh saka, Bheegi Raat, 1965. A superhi of that time. Pradeep Kumar has had one too many and wants to declare his love for Meena Kumari. Hear the effortless high notes by

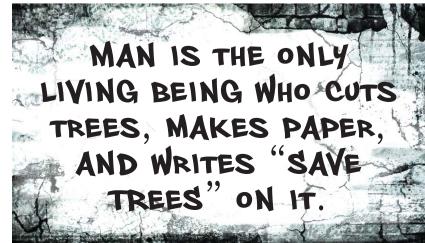
Diwana keh ke aaj mujhe phir pukariye, Mulzim, 1963. A soulful romantic number that Pradeep Kumar sings for Shakila.

Continued..

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gives one goosebumps



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



ZITS



