



EVERY MUSIC COMPOSER'S DELIGHT!



"Boy from Jalandhar, growing up in Stockholm, singing old Hindi film songs, but with English lyrics. That more or less sums up Neeraj Shridhar's life and work." – We cannot sum up Neeraj better than what ace journalist Robin Abreu had done in the lines as quoted. The ace singer who entered Bollywood with the title track of the 2006 *Priyadarshan* entertainer *Bhagam Bhag* (as his first

released film) has become a household name with one hit after another – starting from *Tumko Dekha* from Salman Khan's *God Tussi Great Ho* to title tracks in *Heyy Babyy*, *Bhool Bhulaiyaa* and of course *Cocktail's Tumhi Ho Bandhu* and yet again weaving his magic in the latest release of the *Golmaal* franchise. Neeraj – over the years with all the greatest hits that he has produced - has the unique



NEERAJ SHRIDHAR



experience working with almost all the main Bollywood music directors with the likes of Sajid-Wajid, Salim-Sulaiman, Pritam, Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy, Vishal-Shekhar, Nadeem-Shravan, Anu Malik, Sandesh Shandilya, Aashish Pandit, and many more. He has mostly worked with Pritam as he himself once said, reiterating his love for the music director he enjoys collaborating with - "I love to work with all those who will give me freedom to sing in my own style. I love working with Pritam. Vishal and Shekhar are amazing music directors. I respect them both even though I have not worked much with them. I also enjoyed working with Shankar Ehsaan Loy."

Neeraj's upbringing in Europe, as his father moved out of India to work for radio Sweden when he was just seven, gave him the background for consolidated training of Western Classical music, which he later capitalised so well on with his fusion based Bollywood music. Shridhar grew up in Sweden on a staple diet of



Kishore Kumar, Asha Bhosle and Lata Mangeshkar. He remembers humming Hindi film numbers, but couldn't quite get the words. As quite naturally, he speaks "more Swedish than English than Hindi" – what might otherwise have been a limitation, proved to be the greatest advantage for Neeraj in the long run - he started to write English lyrics to Bollywood tunes – thus his group Bombay Vikings was formed in 1999. Neeraj being the lead singer and lyricist of Bombay Vikings - the band had produced multiple big hits since inception before Bollywood happened, and rest as they say, is history in progress.