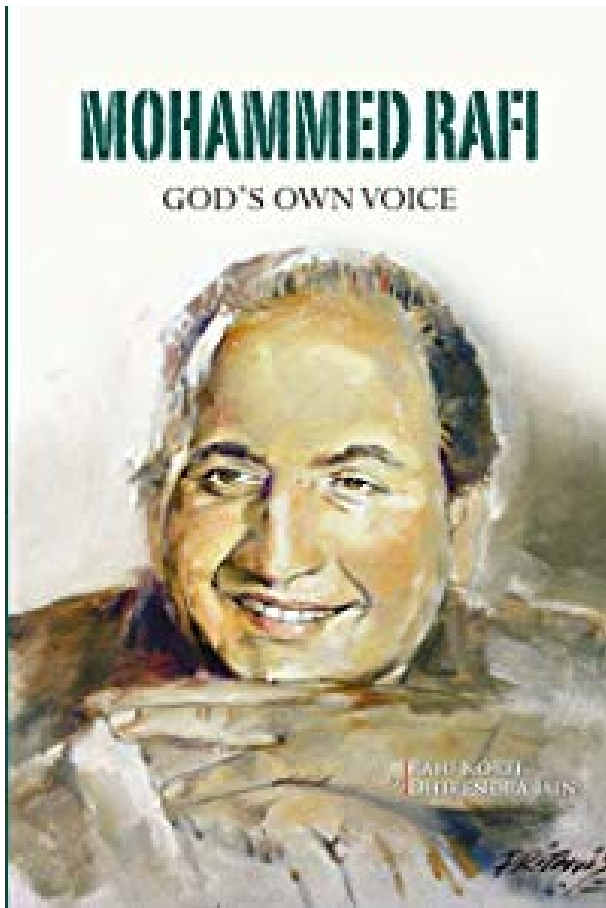


Mohammed Rafi: God's Own Voice



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Overview Before Mohammed Rafi there were, probably, none and after him only two great singers—this succinctly describes the legendary singer of four decades whose rise to stardom was phenomenal. Indeed, Rafi was bigger than many of the stars who lip-synced to his golden voice. For a man who came from a rather humble and conservative background, it was his hard work, natural talent and saintly nature that made him stride like Colossus in an industry known for its crass, commercial values. Before the writers embarked on this historic journey of encapsulating this simple man's history and career—the stuff folklores are made of—they were well aware of the magnitude of the task. Thirty-five years after his death, Rafi's popularity keeps growing, and each day one gets to hear new anecdotes about his prowess as a singer and his nobility as a human being. Years of painstaking research and experience have gone into the compilation of this book, but it cannot be said to be complete by any stretch of the imagination. Apart from mentioning the 7,000 plus songs he sang and hundreds of shows he performed at home and abroad, the authors have tried to piece together a spellbinding account of Rafi's professional pilgrimage. The biographers feel humbled and rewarded to chronicle a personality rightly acknowledged as among the 'Best 50 Indians' ever born. This is the first time a book has delved into the stupendous life and times of a titan in such comprehensive depth. About the Authors A fountainhead of creative writing, Raju Korti is a dedicated, resourceful and innovative media professional who has been in the industry for over 33 years. He began his long career with The Hindu, followed by a stint

with The Indian Express, Free Press Journal and Daily News and Analysis (DNA) newspapers. Writer, journalist and media consultant, Dhirendra Jain had his grounding in film journalism from Raipur in Chhattisgarh. His book Sunehre Pal won an award from the prestigious Maharashtra State Hindi Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai. His wide experience in film journalism and PR makes him privy to count incidents and anecdotes.