

IN TUNE

TETE-A-TETE/SONALI AND ROOP KUMAR RATHOD



tion and get the tone, pitch and emotion right.

Roop: I prefer a live performance. The high of that magically charged atmosphere is a reward in itself.

What was the *Sarabhai vs Sarabhai* experience like?

Sonali: Sheer *masti!* There was this pond in the centre with some live ducks and they kept flying out. The lines were very funny and it was good fun singing them.

Roop: Initially I was little worried and I was like *Yeh kaha phas gaye* but watching Satischji and Ratnaji left me in splits!

What is your take on the reality shows?

Sonali: I think that they are shifting the focus from singing

SYNCHRONISING SUR AND SOUL

Renowned Ghazal singers Roop Kumar and Sonali Rathod talk about the new notes in their surscape to **Rubina P.Banerjee**

What's new on your musical horizon?

Sonali: I love listening to all kinds of music like club and jazz and am imbibing the techniques of singing in my new album. It's a totally new Sonali that you'll experience in the album. Lez has done the album for me and I have almost completed it. The songs are hummable, feel-good types. I just can't wait to perform them with my band, especially abroad where I can jam with jazz musicians.

Roop: From tabla player to ghazal singer and play-back artiste, I have now turned to music composition. I have my new studio and have composed for films like *Zehar*. I am working on a few more films, scheduled to release next year.

And playback singing?

Roop: Well after *Tere Liye* (*Veer Zaara*) I have been very busy with music composition and performances. Of course I'd love to sing any song that comes my way.

Sonali: Well I wouldn't mind singing film songs but I have never got a chance. Not that I miss singing them, especially today's film songs — I wish I lived in the era of old film music.

What do you prefer singing live or recording?

Sonali: Both have their own challenges. In live performances you get to strike a rapport with the audience and an opportunity to show off your talents as an artiste. Performing live is an art. Whereas in a recorded song, one has to sing to perfec-

to other things like looking good!

Roop: Good singing will die out if many Indian idols come into being... *inhe toh kabhi riyaz ki zaroorat hi nahi hogi!* A musician's journey to perfection is what makes him. There are no shortcuts in that journey.

Is your daughter Surashree also musically inclined?

Roop: Yes, very much so. She has learnt piano and is right now creating her own album. She has written, composed and arranged all by herself, for this album.

After 15 years of marriage, is your relationship now as good as old wine?

Sonali: I think we drank it down too fast, but it still tingles!