

Top Hindi Soundtracks of 2008

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Happy New Year. So, here are the MR Top 26 Soundtracks of 2008. There is a summary at the end of the list. Chime in with your thoughts, agreements or disagreements.

26. Khalbali - Bhuri Bhuri
Singers: Neeraj Shridhar, Sunidhi Chauhan
Music Label:Junglee Music
Lyricist: Jalees Sherwani, Shabbir Ahmed
Music Director: Sajid, Wajid

25. U Me Aur Hum - U Me Aur Hum
Singers: Shreya Ghosal
Music Label:Eros Music
Lyricist: Munna Dhiman
Music Director: Vishal Bharadwaj

24. Woodstock Villa - Yeh Pyaar Hai
Singers: Aanchal Datta Bhatia, Shaan
Music Label:T-Series
Lyricist: Virag Mishra
Music Director: Anu Malik

23. 1920 - Vaada Tumse Hain Vaada
Singers: Pandit Jasraj
Music Label:Big Music
Lyricist: Sameer
Music Director: Adnan Sami

22. Ugly Aur Pagli - Yaad Teri Aaye
Singers: Mohit Chouhan
Music Label:T-Series
Lyricist: Amitabh Varma
Music Director: Anu Malik

21. Tashan - Falak Tak
Singers: Udit Narayan, Mahalakshmi Iyer
Music Label:Yrf Music
Lyricist: Kausar Munir
Music Director: Vishal Dadlani, Shekhar Ravjiani

20. Ru Ba Ru - Ru Ba Ru
Singers: Vijay Prakash
Music Label:T-Series
Lyricist: Aditya Narayan
Music Director: Samirrudin

19. Yuvraaj - Tu Meri Dost Hain
Singers: Benny Dayal, Shreya Ghosal, A R Rahman, Salman Khan
Music Label:T-Series
Lyricist: Gulzar
Music Director: A R Rahman

18. Thoda Pyar Thoda Magic - Lazy Lamhe
Singers: Anousha Mani
Music Label:Yrf Music
Lyricist: Prasoon Joshi
Music Director: Shankar Mahadevan, Ehsaan Noorani, Loy Mendonca

17. Rock On - Pichle Saat Dinon Mein

Singers: Farhan Akhtar

Music Label:Big Music

Lyricist: Javed Akhtar

Music Director: Shankar Mahadevan, Ehsaan Noorani, Loy Mendonca

16. Golmaal Returns - Meow

Singers: Suzi Q, Monali

Music Label:T-Series

Lyricist: Ashiesh Pandit, Neeraj Shridhar

Music Director: Pritam Chakraborty

15. Chandni Chowk To China - Tere Naina

Singers: Shankar Mahadevan, Shreya Ghosal

Music Label:T-Series

Lyricist: Rajat Arora

Music Director: Shankar Mahadevan, Ehsaan Noorani, Loy Mendonca

14. Jodhaa Akbar - Jashn-E-Bahaaraa

Singers: Javed Ali

Music Label:Utv Music

Lyricist: Javed Akhtar

Music Director: A R Rahman

13. Dostana - Khabar Nahi

Singers: Vishal Dadlani, Shreya Ghosal,Amanat Ali

Music Label:Sony Music

Lyricist: Anvita Dutt Guptan

Music Director: Vishal Dadlani, Shekhar Ravjiani

12. Fashion - Mar Jawaan

Singers: Shruti Pathak, Salim Merchant

Music Label:T-Series

Lyricist: Irfan Siddique

Music Director: Salim Merchant, Sulaiman Merchant

11. Raaz - The Mystery Continues- Maahi

Singers: Toshi

Lyricist: Sayeed Qadri

Music Director: Toshi, Sharib Sabri

10. Bachna Ae Haseeno - Khuda Jaane

Singers: K K, Shilpa Rao

Music Label:Yrf Music

Lyricist: Anvita Dutt Guptan

Music Director: Vishal Dadlani, Shekhar Ravjiani

9. Jaane Tu Ya Na Jaane - Kabhi Kabhi Aditi

Singers: Rashid Ali

Music Label:T-Series

Lyricist: Abbas Tyrewala

Music Director: A R Rahman

8.Kidnap - Mit Jaaye (Rock Version)

Singers: Sandeep Vyas

Music Label:Sony Music

Lyricist: Sandeep Vyas, Sanjeev Vyas

Music Director: Sandeep Vyas, Sanjeev Vyas

7. Hijack - Aksar

Singers: K K

Music Label:Eros Music

Lyricist: Kumaar

Music Director: Justin Yesudas, Uday Kumar Ninjoor

6. Kismet Connection - Bakhuda Tumhi Ho

Singers: Alka Yagnik, Atif Aslam
 Music Label: Tips Music Films
 Lyricist: Sayeed Qadri
 Music Director: Pritam Chakraborty

5. Ghajini - Guzarish

Singers: Javed Ali, Sonu Nigam
 Music Label: T-Series
 Lyricist: Prasoon Joshi
 Music Director: A R Rahman

4. Karzzzz - Lut Jaaon Lut Jaaon

Singers: Himesh Reshammiya, Harshdeep Kaur
 Music Label: T-Series
 Lyricist: Sameer
 Music Director: Himesh Reshammiya

3. Jannat - Zara Sa

Singers: K K
 Music Label: Sony Music
 Lyricist: Sayeed Qadri
 Music Director: Pritam Chakraborty

2. Race - Pehli Nazar Mein

Singers: Atif Aslam
 Music Label: Tips Music Films
 Lyricist: Sameer
 Music Director: Pritam Chakraborty

1. Singh Is King - Teri Ore

Singers: Rahat Fateh Ali Khan, Shreya Ghosal
 Music Label: Jungle Music
 Lyricist: Mayur Puri
 Music Director: Pritam Chakraborty

Special honor: Slumdog Millionaire - O Saya ..

Singers: A. R. Rahman
 Music Director: A. R. Rahman

Summary Allright. So let's try to sum it up. What did we get for the past year from Hindi Film Industry? Well, striking observation is that Rock genre has made a decent presence in background scores this past year. Rock On was dedicated to the genre and witnessed multi talented Farhan Akhtar take lead role and lead singer, in reel as well as real life for the soundtracks. Sandeep Vyas too has rocked Mit Jayee in Kidnap and full credit must go to Vyas brothers for vocals, lyrics, scores and music. Pritam too, picking from Life in Metro from last year has fused urban and rock in Meow - Golmaal Returns; with lead vocals from Suzi Q and Monali for a fresh new sound and catchy rhythms and upbeat tempo. In short, 2008 was a very good year for Rock genre in Hindi films. Hope we get to see more of this genre in coming years to bring some energy to background scores in Hindi films.

2008 also witnessed some experimentation of genre blending from Vishal and Shekhar duo in Tashan. They tried to do a Vishal Bhardwaj(Omkara) and Shankar Ehsaan Loy(Jhoom Barabar Jhoom) themes in Tashan. However, the experiment bombed. Falak Tak turned out to be the only decent number from the experiment and saved the album. The credit primarily goes to melodious magic of Udit Narayan. It did make at 21 in MR top 26 and is an easy listening soundtrack. Speaking of which, we also witnessed some excellent slow/lounge/new-age blends in 26) Bhuri-Bhuri, 25) U Me Aur Hum 20) Ru-Ba-Ru. and 18) Lazy Lamhe. Vijay Prakash has done a marvelous singing in Ru-Ba-Ru on a new-age score from Samiruddin. Who is Samiruddin? Not much is known about the fellow but he has done a decent job. Shreya Ghosal is also soothing as ever in U Me Aur Hum on a well made score from Vishal Bhardwaj. I think the slow jam/lounge with new-age genre is only going to pick up in Hindi soundtracks. It seems Anwar(Mithoon) is having an impact and public wants it. Speaking of whom, where has been Mithoon in 2008? Non-existent. Hope we get to hear from him and the word is that he is busy in Asia in few collaboration projects. The year also witnessed the Sangeet Martand Pandit Jasraj experiment with film gayaki. The film and song both did not do well and score was sub par for the weight Pandit Jasraj brings. Adnan has tried, but could not deliver the expected result. Let the mastero stick to classical music directors such as Ismail

Darbar, who probably can fit the style a notch better. Most likely it is a huge opportunity loss to the one of the best living legends of our generation and a poor experiment, if that is what we can call it.

Right - so we covered high energy rock genre to soothing moods of 2008. Rest of the soundtracks in top 26 basically cover the missing or traditional range found in Hindi soundtracks, but need special mention the introduction of Toshi and Amanat Ali in background singing. Toshi actually also composed the Maahi soundtrack and gets a slightly higher rating in our charts for higher vocals and capacity to compose. However, Amanat Ali has sung beautifully in a well composed score from Vishal and Shekar in Khabar Nahi, probably the only Soundtrack from the album worth multiple repeat listening.

To many, including myself, the 2008 charts includes a surprise at 4) Lut Jaoon, from Himesh Reshammiya who got superb support from Harshdeep Kaur. The composition is indeed intoxicating and held on its own. It too is blending Sufism with new-age explorations, much on the lines of Anwar. Hence, Himesh has made it to top MR top 10, for the first time. Hope he continues to stay away from nasal singing and brings much soul stirring sounds as this one. Not bad for a guy who had taken a lot of beating from the press and music enthusiasts. Another good soundtrack comes from duo Justin Yesudas and Uday Kumar Ninjor at 7) Aksar, well sung by KK. As a matter of fact, the lyrics by Kumaar for Aksar at 7) and next number 6) Bekhuda Tum He Ho by Sayeed Qadri are most likely the best of the pack. However, the year 2008 clearly belonged to musical genius A.R. Rahman and hit machine Pritam Chakraborty. Race, Jannat, Kismet Konnection and Singh is King have indeed made Pritam a bankable composer for the producers. However, the genius A.R. Rahman has stolen the year for Jodha Akbar, Jaane Tu Ya Jaane Na, Yuvraaj, Ghajini and Slumdog Millionaire. Slumdog is making some great international rounds and has potential to bag some major awards for Rahman. The opening uplifting soundtrack has a special honorary mention since it's not Hindi Soundtrack per se, but does fit the realm. In our official chart though, Pritam prevails at the top for his major hits for 2008 with thumbs up and fantastic singing and contributions from Shreya Ghosal, Rahat Fateh Ali Khan, Atif Aslam and KK. The scores have been rated on multiple factors, including originality, repetitive thresholds, lack of music banks or original sounds, innovation, vocals and composition. The weekly countdown at MR top 13 has also played a major factor in overall ranking. It is not purely based on popularism. However, we do want to hear from you. What do you think? Is the rating justified? Is it way off? Are you surprised not to see Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi in the Top 26? Do you think another track should have been included? Please chime in.