



On the line of tunes Tulsi Kumar

She is young, versatile and confident. Singer Tulsi Kumar started her journey with music at the age of 6, when her father Gulshan Kumar found her humming the songs and decided to train her in classical music. And today when she has made it to the music industry, she believes that now her only aim is to live the dream of her father for her becoming a successful singer.

In conversation with *Bhaskar Raj*, Tulsi speaks about her ineluctable connection with music, her father and how the remix and live shows have made the playback singers a household name.

Q. Let's talk about your childhood days, your association with music and family connection with music industry.
I was quite an interest as a child. I had a strong love towards music and dance. I was my father's pet and I will remember when I was around 8 I used to watch television and from songs. My father used to stand outside the door and hear me. And it was he, who told my mom that I have a better voice and should be given formal training in light classical music. At that tender age he understood my love for music. And admitted me to Sarvag Vaidikar's academy, and from there my musical journey began which continues till today and more so till future.

Q. Was it pre-determined in your mind to make career in music because of your family background or you had some other plans too?
I never had any set of plan. But I always loved music and so I had I started learning light classical at a very young age and would be always late for my morning commutes to school. I have grown with music and definitely wanted to take it forward to the next level by getting into playback. Moreover in the journey I unfortunately lost my father and naturally wanted to live his dream of me becoming a singer and making him proud.

Q. If you would have entered in the industry 20 years back, with what song you would have started and why?
Well if that was the case then definitely it would be with the songs of *KAASHIKA*. This project was produced by my father and was a complete music album. Each and every song in the film is still remembered and hummed by people. The romance and purity of this music truly reaches every heart. It gives a chance I would have started by rendering these beautiful romantic numbers for sure.

Q. Let's talk about your journey in the industry, how it has been? How did your first break happen? It's been a great learning experience and a fun journey till now. Have you got an opportunity to work with some very good music composers like Anand-Mukunda, Hrishikesh Bhattacharya, Pritam, Nadeem-Shiraz, Sachin-Jagan, Mohit-Shekar, Mani Ratnam to name a few. Every composer has his unique style of making a singer render their composition and I have learnt a lot from all of them in terms of style, lyrics, emotion, expression and feel. I have indeed grown as an artist with every song of mine.

Q. Belonging to a family of great musicians, was it challenging for you to mark yourself in the industry or it was easier?
Well, when you come from such an illustrious family background, there are lots of expectations that one has to live up to, and one is always under scrutiny. Getting an initial break is easy but to sustain yourself in the industry, one needs to strike a chord with listeners which is of utmost importance. I have been really blessed and received appreciation and admiration from the listeners. My father's aim needs to strike a chord with listeners which is of utmost importance. I have been really blessed and received appreciation and admiration from the listeners. My father's aim needs to strike a chord with listeners which is of utmost importance. I have been really blessed and received appreciation and admiration from the listeners.

Q. Any dream project that is yet to be accomplished?
I don't know what delivers a dream project but I just want to do some great music and songs that reach with my listeners hearts.

Q. How do you define success?
It's all the beginning and I have long way to go. With my experience in the industry I feel, success to me is making yourself rather than competing with others.

Q. What is your mission statement?
I am very much work driven, so my mission statement would be "Work harder and harder" till you achieve and succeed. Once you achieve that also don't stop, keep the fire burning, because that will keep you alive.

Q. Your future plans.
In present I am doing a couple of movies including *Little Bheem* and *Harshvardhan's* next project. I am also collaborating on a song with a UK based singer. Apart from that I have produced the soundtrack and featured on a new year drive for a new kids channel launch, it is an album collaboration on YouTube, and is called *KIDS HIT*. It was a great learning experience being part of the project.



Q. Today singers have stretched themselves from playback to live shows, what do you think about it?