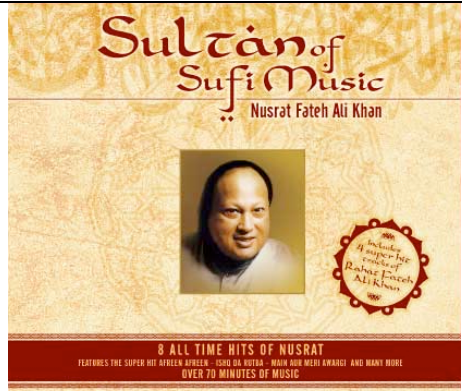
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artist: <b>Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan</b> album: <b><i>Sultan of Sufi Music</i></b> label: <b>beatScience/Saregama</b> distr: <b>ALIVE (D/A/CH)</b>			
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Equally lauded at sufi shrines across the Indian subcontinent and on concert stages across the world, Nusrat (1948-1997) was one the most charismatic, mesmerizing singers the world has seen. He took Qawwali, the traditional sufi devotional music form, to new heights and popularized it with new audiences. His career, spanning three decades, was cut short by his death at the premature age of 48, when he had just proved himself internationally as a maestro. He was also a path blazing World Music performer, releasing several albums on Peter Gabriels' Real World label. To Jeff Buckley he was „my Elvis“ and Eddie Vedder called him „a true musician who won't be replaced in my life“.

Nusrat was born into one of the leading Qawwal families of Pakistan. This centuries-old genre of music is a sufi devotional, spiritual form that builds up through hypnotic rhythms, percussive handclaps, and lyrics of adoration and submission, to a climax of intense ecstasy shared equally by the performers and scholar, tried to steer his son clear of a career in music. But the boy's huge gift and extraordinary voice just could not be denied, and he soon began training in earnest. After his father's death in 1964, he took over as head of the family Qawwali Party. His unusual vocal quality, outstanding range and inventive approach were his hallmarks. For example, he became known for his use of sargam singing (singing the names of the notes sa re ga ma pa dha ni), amongst other innovations.

Peter Gabriel featured him in WOMAD and on the soundtrack for Martin Scorsese's „The Last Temptation of Christ“. His experimental „Night Song“, was nominated for a Grammy in 1996. He collaborated with Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder on the soundtrack of Oscar-winning „Dead Man Walking“ (1995). He was artist-in-residence at Washington University for three years before his death, touring and performing extensively in the US and the world. He intended his music to be a „message of humanity, love and peace ... to bring people toward brotherhood ... without any concern for race, religion or colour.“

Rahat, Nusrat's nephew, has donned the mantle of successor to his uncle's legacy, and is already making name for himself as a singer to watch our for. He contributes four tracks to this album.