

MUSIC

**Bhangra...Cowboy...Dilvog and the Indian Grove**

It's about time Bhangra had a bit of a facelift. Who is this guy with a cowboy hat and a dhol slung over his shoulder? You might ask yourself this question when you first see

ing a cowboy hat? Seriously though. It's a perfect reflection of where I'm at with my music now a days.

**V. I don't think I heard any cowboy songs on your cd.**

Dilvog. (Laughs) Ya well Garth Brooks and Shannia cancelled on me at the last minute.

No but really, I wanted to capture an image of me that reflected me and my songs.

The songs are this blend of east meets west and you can't get any more western then a cowboy hat and having my roots in Punjab, well you can't get any more Punjabi then a Dhol.

**V. Can you actually play the Dhol or is it just a prop.**

Dilvog. I guess you'll just have to come out to a

McCargar is, in my opinion, the best drummer in Vancouver, he's been playing with Bif Naked and the Pop Junkies for the last few years. Preet Reyat is solid and fun and has his own Dhol School. When he smacks down those rhythms there is no mistaken that Bhangra has arrived. Scottie and Preet together create this Rhythmic assault that makes you wanna dance. The band sounds great. I'm still looking to add a keyboardist or even an accordion player to the mix. I'm in no hurry, I'm sure he or she will show up just like everyone else did.

**V. Why did you wait so long between cd's?**

Dilvog. Well, again an unusual turn of events introduced me to a local Business man, Dave Johl who basically put his money where his mouth is. Many people have told me that I should do another cd but no one was willing to foot the bill. Dave did. He believed in me. I introduced Dave to a long time friend of mine Roger Levens who owns Greenhouse studio's, Little Mountain Sound and Song City and Roger kicked in all the studio time, which showed me that he also

wanted this to work and was full on the team. We all decided that we wanted to take Bhangra to the mainstream bigtime.

**V. Aren't people already taking Bhangra mainstream.**

Dilvog. I hear a lot of people now a days talking about making Bhangra songs and music accessible to the non Indian folk. But I don't see how you can do this unless you make the lyrics accessible. Most of the non Indian people I see at the shows are always telling me that they love the rhythms and melodies and they enjoy dancing the light bulb thing and doing the pa the dog dance at their Indian friends weddings, but they would really like to understand what the singing is about. That's why they enjoy our shows. They understand the words.

**V. Is that why some of the songs on the cd have two versions. One mostly English and the other mostly Punjabi or Hindi.**

Dilvog. Well ya, that's the main reason. The other reason is because I couldn't make up my mind which versions I liked better, so I put them both on. There are other songs

and versions of these songs that didn't make the cd.

**V. Tell me about Kabhi Kabhi. Why did you choose to re do this song out of all the other Hindi songs you could have picked?**

Dilvog. I wasn't looking to re do a Hindi song. It just happened that way. I've always sang it and I've always enjoyed singing it. It's one of my all time favorite songs. Kabhi Kabhi is just one of those songs that can mean so many different things. If you ever watch the movie, you'll see what I mean. I just love the song.

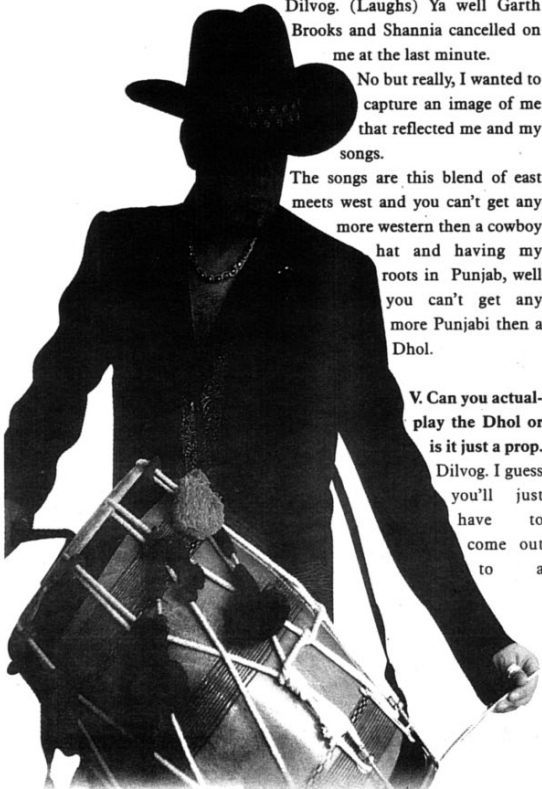
**V. What's next for you**

Dilvog. I've just released the cd here in Canada so for the next few months it will be all about getting the word out and playing as much as possible. It will be released in the U.S. and the rest of world including India before summer and then I'll travel over their for a few months.

*I must say, he's an interesting guy. If you're looking for show or appearance dates you can visit [www.indiangroove.com](http://www.indiangroove.com)*

Cheerio I gotta go.

-Chacha ji



Dilvog's latest CD appropriately titled "Indian Grove". Flip it over and you'll see the man with no cowboy hat and yes no hair either. I met up with Dilvog over a cup of chai.

**V. "Great hat, why do where it". I do like to be direct and to the point.**

Dilvog. Hi how you doin, good to meet you too. He sat down with his cup of tea, relaxed and then answered my question.

I've shaved my head and the hat keeps me warm.

It's different and I don't like to fit into a mould or stereotype. Have you ever met a Bhangra artist wear-

show and see for yourself. I can hold my own on a Dhol.

**V. Do you have a band or do you sing to tracks?**

Dilvog. Both actually. When it's called for I'll go out and do a song or two to my backing tracks and I'll sing live.

But I prefer to play with the band. The band is hot and it just rocks. It's kind of funny how I found everyone. It's like god presented them to me one at a time for a reason. Mal Kalar plays all the really hard guitar stuff and he let's me handle the easy cowboy chords as he calls them. He really keeps the band in check. Andy Baryer is a young, fantastic, energetic musician and producer who handles a bass guitar like he was born to play it. Scottie

Indian Grove is by far the freshest most original following song. I Promise You, delivers a great

Bhangra based cd I have heard in a very long time. Even the cover is original, Dilvog in a cowboy hat wearing a neru jacket with a dhol slung over his shoulder, very cool.

Indian Grove features English, Hindi and of course Punjabi lyrics all based around the dhol / dholak, tabla, taad, toombie and harmonium with of course the western acoustic and electric guitars, synths and drums. What a treat.

You won't need your morning coffee to get you going if you put this in your cd player on your way to work.

Indian groove ramps up with an up tempo dhol slammin kind of salsaish track "Rani".

followed by the title track "Indian Grove" which takes the energy up a notch. It's as if the first two tracks were to make sure you were awake for the

mix of classical Indian music and rhythms with the more urban western melodies, it's a great love song. Next you'll sing along to the classic Cecelia done up in good-old-fashioned Bhangra stylings. Just as the mood starts to settle down it get's pumped up again with Fired Up, followed by Aag Vung Nuchey, and the full on Desi Bhangra track, Din Bhangra Paunda backed

up by Bhangra Baby and Da Ma In-Law. It slows back down to a pull-over-and-gotta-listen-to-this-track version of "Kabhi Kabhi". This is sure to be a hit with young and old (most likely the wedding song of the year). After this point Dilvog gives us several remixed bonus tracks.

All in all, Indian Grove is a five star listening experience. I can see this becoming one of the years must have cd's.

**Review**



CD available at leading audio video stores