

MEDIA RELEASE

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The Arts Centre Gold Coast 25 Birthday Celebration - Event # 5 – Mzaza

Mzaza's audience should expect to be treated to their distinctive yet subtle twist: French vocals on a Bulgarian rhythm served just after a traditional Spanish love song. The band's new material promises to get the party started without leaving behind Mzaza's attention to detail and love of soulful traditional music.

The six-piece's unusual take on Mediterranean traditional sounds has been turning heads for a while locally, but it was the release of their latest album *Journey Over Skin* in 2011 which saw the band gain exposure around the country and overseas. The album earned Mzaza two high commendations in the **Queensland Music Awards** and has been receiving spins on national radio and on the Greek airwaves.

The band's appearance at the **National Folk Festival** last year where they were celebrated as a stand out act motivated the group to tour a lot more in 2012 and share their sound far and wide.

Lead singer Maudy says *"We are all very passionate about different musical traditions and it feels great to share that with people. We can't wait to do it all over again. This time we have focused our show more on sounds from Eastern Europe and Turkey. We walk the fine line between celebrating traditional music and reinventing it."*

French-Moroccan front woman Pauline Maudy sings in French, Spanish, Ladino and Turkish. She is known for her captivating on-stage energy. Pauline grew up in Paris listening to flamenco and dancing to North African pop music. She met her future Mzaza counterparts in Brisbane's West End and together they created Mzaza's special blend of sounds. The band's outrageous multi-instrumentalists play violin, kamanche tarhu (a spike-fiddle of Persian ancestry), guitar, accordion, kaval and ney (Balkan and Turkish end blown flutes), double-bass, darabuka (Turkish hand percussion), cajon and bendir (frame drum).

Join us for Mzaza at **Live and Intimate in The Basement on Saturday 25 February! Tickets: \$18.00 (pre-booked) or \$20.00 at the door. Doors and bar open at 6.30pm; Showtime 7.30pm. Bookings: Phone Box Office on 5588 4000 or book online. Dinner and show package available.**

For interviews or photos contact Amanda Sheehan on 5588 4012 or sheehan@theartscentregc.com.au

www.theartscentregc.com.au

PO Box 6615
Gold Coast Mailing Centre
QLD 9726 Australia

135 Bundall Rd
Surfers Paradise
QLD 4217 Australia

TEL (07) 5581 6500
FAX (07) 5581 6592
ABN 85 060 787 466