

MZAZA

Approved Promo Kit

About

“...a world where the past is ever-present and music knows no borders. FOUR STARS” – The Courier Mail

Three-time Queensland Music Award winners MZAZA deliver Balkan-French inspired sounds to folk lovers internationally. Led by enchanting French-Sephardic vocalist Pauline Maudy (2023 Australian Folk Artist of the Year), this group of musicians from around the world has been mesmerising audiences with powerful and inspired performances.

The impressive musicianship of MZAZA – deftly realised with accordion, violin, percussion, double bass and Flamenco guitar – embraces diversity, the old and the new, the familiar and the foreign, through timeless melodies. It is the timelessness of the music and stories that fuels an intense live show, an unforgettable musical journey, that has enraptured audiences at MONA FOMA, Queensland Music Festival, Cygnet, National and Woodford Folk Festivals, and visited airwaves and venues internationally. Jaw-dropping technique, unique compositions and captivating shows have earned MZAZA supports for the likes of the Violent Femmes (USA) Yasmin Levy (Israel), Melbourne Ska Orchestra (AUS), Baba Zula and Baro Banda (Turkey), and DJ Click (France).

In 2020 MZAZA released their third studio album, *The Birth & Death of Stars*, described by *Songlines Magazine* as “a supernova of an album”. Recorded at Sierra Studios in Athens, Greece, the twelve-track album is accompanied by a critically-acclaimed theatre show devised in collaboration with director Benjamin Knapton (CiRCA).

Highlights

- Theatre show, *The Birth & Death of Stars*, premiered at Brisbane Festival to sold out audiences (2020), return season (2021), 20 date Queensland tour (2020), and national tour (2024)
- Lead singer is Australian Folk Music Awards Artist of the Year (2023) Finalist Australian Folk Music Awards Contemporary Album of the Year (2022)
- European tours & recording (2016, 2018)
- 18 date QLD tour (2017) with the support of arTour and Arts QLD
- 3 Queensland Music Awards (2015, 2016, 2021) + 6 tracks Highly Commended (2011, 2015, 2016) + 2 tracks finalists (2019, 2020) Album of the Week on Kanaliena Radio (Greece)

- 1 EP and 3 albums released
- Showcases at AWME (AU), APAX, Showcase Victoria and more

Australian Festival Highlights: Woodford Folk Festival, MONA FOMA, National Folk Festival, Queensland Music Festival, Brisbane Festival, Lorne Festival of Performing Arts, Cygnet Folk Festival, Crossbows Festival, Karavan International Gypsy Music Festival, Q150 Tour, Illawarra Folk Festival, Peak Festival and more

Supports: Yasmin Levy (Israel), Baro Banda (Turkey), DJ Click (France), DVA (Linsey Pollak and Tunji Beier) (AUS), Band of Brothers (Grigoryan and Tawadros brothers) (AUS), Waiting for Guinness (AUS), Katy Steele (Little Birdy) (AUS)

Releases

The Birth & Death of Stars (2020) (Album)

“A supernova of an album - *FOUR STARS*” **Songlines Magazine**

Queensland Music Awards Best Song [World] 2021, Queensland Music Awards Best Song [World] Finalist Contemporary Album of the Year (2021) Australian Folk Music Awards

Dying to Dance with the Devil (2016) (Single) Echoes BEMAC Compilation

Dying to Dance with the Devil (2016) (Single) (Universal France - Boris Bergman box set)

Enfants du Chemin (Children of the Road) (2016) (Single) Echoes BEMAC Compilation

Ghosts (2015) (Album) (Planet MGM)

“*Ghosts? There are plenty here in a world where the past is ever-present and music knows no borders.*”

***FOUR STARS*” – The Courier Mail**

- Queensland Music Awards Best Song [World] winner (2015 & 2016), finalist (2019) four High Commendations.
- Airplay on major radio stations including SBS, ABC Radio National, Triple J, RRR, OP Racija (BH Radio 1) (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina), QANTAS, Virgin and more
- Feature Album with Melbourne’s PBS
- 5 weeks in 4ZZZ’s Top 20
- Single ‘Enfants du Chemin’ spent 3 weeks in the AMRAP Metro Charts

Nightwatch (2014) (Single) Echoes BEMAC & QUT Compilation

Sous La Lune (2014) (Single) (Universal Music) SBS Chill Compilation

Sous La Lune (2012) (Single) 100 Songs Project

Journey Over Skin (2011) (Album) (Planet MGM)

Held together by their coherent arrangements and energetic playing, Mzaza have crafted a joyous and diverse listening experience.” - 4ZZZ

- Airplay: ABC Radio National, ABC Classic Fm, SBS, Triple J, Qantas, PBS, 4ZZZ, 4EB and many more.
- Album of the Week on Kanaliena Radio (Greece)
- Two tracks highly commended in the Queensland Music Awards 2011.

Parliament of the Birds (EP) (2009)

"Each track displays such a high level of musicianship [...] Mzaza's driving rhythms and haunting melodic lines made me yearn for exotic places and adventures." - **The Folk Rag**

Media

"MZAZA are a six-piece band with an Australian-European line-up and an aesthetic that recalls the free-spirited romanticism of Lhasa de Sela or redoubtable France-based collective Lo'Jo. **FOUR STARS**" - Songlines Magazine

"While there's undoubted unorthodoxy in leader, singer and chief composer Pauline Maudy's modus operandi of mixing songs delivered primarily in French with exotic Balkan rhythms - and also referencing astronomy, philosophy and Greek mythology on Mzaza's third studio recording, cut in Athens - a brace of Queensland Music Awards and a swag of appearances at leading Aussie festivals shows there's method in her -and their - musical madness." The Weekend Australian

"Pauline Maudy... has the voice of an angel." – Sounds Of Oz

"A unique and uniquely diverse band." – 4ZZZ

"MZAZA have been a real revelation for our SBS Chill audience. They are just Amazing!" - Christophe Mallet, SBS Radio

"Maudy and band darted across bright, asymmetrical rhythms with persuasive ease" - Jessica Nicholas, The Age, 2013

"Mzaza take the listener on a colourful international tour on their excellent eight-track mini-album Journey Over Skin which features the dexterous playing of Flamenco guitarist Andrew Veivers. [...] French-born lead vocalist Pauline Maudy, who sings beautifully in several languages, has a wonderfully dramatic delivery and sounds particularly alluring on Mon Amant De Saint Jean. [...] The music is of a uniformly high quality and it is easy to see why the band has achieved airplay on ABC Classic, Radio National, Triple J, SBS and Qantas" - Graham Blackley, Trad and Now, 2013

"Lead singer Pauline Maudy sings in enough languages to make a UN conference translator's head spin." - Josh Donellan, Rave Magazine, 2012

"These are serious musicians, and the blend of elements in their songs generate intricacies to which each of them must rigorously commit. Yet there are no pretensions in their manner, no studied pseudo-mystical facades. Mzaza is a band comprised not only of skilled instrumentalists but of consummate and generous performers, who truly relish a direct and celebratory connection with their audience. Pauline Maudy—a mighty talent, capable of raising the roof in four languages—could easily have assumed a primadonna role at the front of such a group, but such an idea clearly could not be further from her mind." - Rob Rimmer, Weekend Notes, 2012

"Journey Over Skin is a rollicking ride through a range of musical traditions, rhythms and languages from Spain to the Balkans and Turkey. Held together by their coherent arrangements and energetic playing, Mzaza have crafted a joyous and diverse listening experience." - Garry Williams, 4ZZZ

"Passionate, infectious, haunting, Turkish, Bulgarian, Andalusian– words won't express it." - Tony Preece, Big Orange Chair, 2011

"Brisbane based Pauline Maudy, an expatriate French singer, heartbreakingly channeled Edith Piaf [...] More, please." - Ken Lord, The Sunday Mail, 2008

"Mzaza are one of the day's most intriguing acts. The locals perform with traditional percussion and wind instruments as well as acoustic guitar and accordion, as singer Pauline Maudy sings multi-lingual ballads that transport the listener to Parisian alleyways one minute, then Eastern European gypsy campfires and dramatic Spanish landscapes the next." Matt Thrower, Rave Magazine

"This EP release, Parliament of the Birds, from Mzaza is my case in point. [...] Each track displays such a high level of musicianship [...] I was particularly impressed by Pauline's easy vocal style which belies her level of skill and technique and astounded by her capability to sing in such a range of languages. Mzaza's driving rhythms and haunting melodic lines made me yearn for exotic places and adventures." - Lonnie Martin, The Folk Rag

"Mzaza have a unique style and incredible passion which echo through the transfixed audience." - Lisa Lamb, LifeMusicMedia

Socials

www.mzaza.com

www.youtube.com/mzazamusic

www.facebook.com/mzazamusic

www.instagram.com/mzazamusic

Contacts

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Images

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rq_BHLgi9etfolGXDZlvMNBzm7fU0QL5/view?usp=sharing

https://drive.google.com/file/d/19r7NT8A14FU4Duch83uy44OA_gcC8tdj/view?usp=sharing

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gq0kSmSTgcUAatOlaszD2fOxZIJ2gKyjU/view?usp=sharing>

www.mzaza.com

Videos

This is MZAZA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ali4fM97qNs>

Enfants Du Chemin

https://youtu.be/ntj8g_pZJ_k

Music

<https://open.spotify.com/track/4ZulrGBARLoJ6k2EymIXjg?si=1519cb0d7d784b22>

<https://open.spotify.com/track/1QXljpQgHi3sYc1T0kBzGE?si=8a832f937e4c421c>

Logo

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-suYqOI2zGxbC_Jmg20TzIWQrOBdfebl/view?usp=sharing