

MAZ

With an official WOMEX17 selection and 16 top Canadian award nominations, MAZ's music has proven its category-defying appeal. With their third album *ID (idea)*, they celebrate Quebec's traditional music while embracing modern streams in a flow of folk, jazz and electronica. Their ideas are played, sung and danced, they speak to heart, body and soul without losing the mind!

On stage, MAZ takes you on a musical journey that renews with Quebec's heritage, where songs and instrumentals open up to new groovy perspectives. Keyboards and electric guitar meet up with fiddle, banjo, double bass and voices, over blazing Quebecois foot tapping and electro beats.

With the band's first album in 2011, *Télescope* (which was nominated for a JUNO as best instrumental album), the band's music reveals a modern take on Québec's instrumental culture. With *Chasse-Galerie (The Flying Canoe)* in 2013, it evolved further while reinventing one of Quebec's most famous legends--*La Chasse-Galerie*, making it resonate to the sound of here and now – and receiving two ADISQ nominations on the way. For MAZ, the legend of the Chasse-Galerie invoked the duality between sincere dreams in which we invest body and soul, and the mirages created by today's frenetic lifestyle--you need a fine sense of balance to fly a canoe! By soaring on favourable winds while avoiding certain trappings, it's possible to pursue our quests without losing our roots.

With the band's latest recording, *ID*, the legend's flying canoe becomes a magic carpet! Jump aboard and join Marc Maziade (electric guitar, banjo, foot percussion, programming, vocals), Rémi Pagé (violin, foot percussion, vocals), Roxane Beaulieu (keyboards, vocals), and Hugo Blouin (double bass, vocals) for a moment of complicity and intensity. A show of unifying songs, jaw-dropping solos, trance-inducing grooves, engaging soundscapes and frenzied foot stomps.

Since its beginnings, MAZ has performed throughout Canada, the US, Mexico, Ghana, and Poland. With the launch of their third album, the band's music receives regular radio play in Quebec, anglo-Canada, and the United States.

MAZ are:

Marc Maziade (electric guitar, banjo, programming, foot percussion and vocals)

Recently nominated at l'ADISQ in the "Arranger of the year" category and at the Canadian folk music awards in the "Producer of the year" category, Marc Maziade was interested in music and in the Québec identity from an early age. Influenced by composers such as Béla Fleck and John Zorn, he was fascinated by improvisation, innovative forms, and the melding of traditional and modern music. His eclectic education spanned jazz, traditional, electronic, classical and world music, concluding with a Master's degree in traditionally inspired composition, a first for Québec. Keeping busy with a variety of projects, his compositions can be heard on several short films, in contemporary dance productions, and through twelve time nominated band MAZ. In 2013 he was asked to use his expertise as a jury member for the Juno awards. He also served on the

Canadian Folk Music Awards jury (2010 and 2013) and on the board of directors for Folk Music Canada.

Roxane Beaulieu (keyboards, vocals)

In her music as in other aspects of her life, Roxane is ready for anything, guided by her curiosity and her sensibility to see beauty in all of its forms. She formally studied jazz at the Cégep de Sherbrooke and continued at the University du Québec à Montréal (UQAM). There, she studied keyboards with Pierre Bélisle (La Bottine Souriante) and jazz piano with Julie Lamontagne (Belle et Bum). She enthusiastically joined the group in 2016. Roxane has embraced this new musical adventure with her usual vigor and curiosity. She has found her place playing non-traditional instruments (keyboards and synth) in this “trad” based universe, only too happy to be contributing while further evolving in this original format.

Hugo Blouin (double bass, keyboards and vocals)

Double bassist and sound artist, Hugo Blouin joined the band in 2016. Hugo is interested in tradition, improvisation and experimentation and over the last fifteen years, has contributed to many musical projects, from *chanson française* to sound art, to jazz and folk music. Among them, winning numerous awards along the way--Charbonneau ou les valeurs à bonne place (2018 Jazz Album of the Year GAMIQ Award), Brassier Brassens, L'Orchestre Pic-bois and the Jonathan Turgeon Trio (2018 Stingray Rising Stars Award at the Montreal Jazz Fest). Hugo lives and works in Montreal.

Remi Pagé (violin, foot percussion and vocals)

Originally from Ottawa, fiddler Rémi Pagé brings with him the memory of the traditional music vigils that saw him grow up. Trained both by oral transmission and on the school benches, he is known for his lively playing and his expressive passion. A member of the bands *Le Diable à Cinq* and MAZ, he is also the founder of the traditional music festival *Dans Nos Vieilles Maisons*. He lives and works in Montreal.

David Simard (violin, foot percussion and vocals)

David Simard is a versatile, creative and energetic musician, evolving mainly on the Quebec traditional music scene. He is a composer and arranger, plays fiddle, guitar and a whole range of other instruments he has been playing since the young age of 12. Although David is mostly a self-taught musician, he is a graduate of Cégep régional de Lanaudière à Joliette (class of 2010) in traditional and jazz guitar. Now living in Montreal, he often leads different traditional music sessions in the city.

Since 2011, David has been a musician with Cirque Alfonse, performing in the productions of *Timber!* and *Barbu*, for which he is also the music co-composer. He is also part of the duets Les Voyageurs and Jetté-Simard, as well as other projects such as Rose Vagabond, Les Hommes-des-Bois, Jean-François Lessard, and many others.

