

MARIA THE MEXICAN

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Maria the Mexican Releases Debut Album

Moon Colored Jade Melds Sounds of Many Influences

KANSAS CITY, MO.— Maria the Mexican's debut full length release entitled *Moon Colored Jade* is best described as Americana soul and Mexican groove sung in English and Spanish. The record's 10 original and two traditional tracks are influenced by the classic popular masters of the American rock, soul and blues landscape while lending a new interpretation to some traditional Mexican standards. The record brings back a time when music was vocally-oriented while being deeply rooted in musicianship.

Fronted by two sisters, Maria and Tess Cuevas, with guitar and vocals added by Garrett Nordstrom and Jason Riley, Maria the Mexican is a fresh sound fueled by creativity and artful rifts. *Moon Colored Jade* was produced by Nordstrom and Matthew Russo (Hall and Oates) and was mixed by Ben Brodin (Bright Eyes, First Aid Kit)

The record's lead off track, **Rock and Sway**, is a modern twist on an established Motown formula of catchy vocals mixed with supple rhythms. The vocals start soft and subtle but soon introduce Maria and Tess Cuevas as soulful lead and harmony vocalists.

Bring it on Body borrows a vibe from the formidable funky sounds of Curtis Mayfield mixed with Philly blue-eyed soul. It is produced with strings and horns and is partly "So In Love" mixed with an early Hall and Oates' "Sara" vibe. The lyrics convey a sense of loss, longing, and eventually hope.

Moon Colored Jade's third track is **The Core**. It introduces Maria the Mexican's infatuation with easy listening grooves mixed with powerful harmonies and tells a story of a relationship run dry of things to say. The track is complemented by guitarist Jason Riley's powerfully emotional lead classical guitar and mood swings supplied by the cello.

El Amor Tuyo is an original composition by Jason Riley and is intended to deliver the listener to a different place and time. Performed on a nylon string the track's minor key emotionalism introduces the subsequent track.

El Cascabel is Maria the Mexican's interpretation of the traditional Mexican folk song. The Cuevas sisters have been singing this song their entire lives. *El Cascabel* tells a story of desire and has been performed by mariachis for a century. This recording showcases the Spanish language talents of the Cuevas sisters, the incomprehensible intense rhythm section of Craig Kew (Protokaw, Jimmie Bratcher) on bass/upright bass and Lester Estelle (Kelly Clarkson) on drums while employing internationally-reknown violist/violinist Christine Grossman and Kew's brother James Kew on cello. Jason Riley is responsible for the string arrangements and has composed a fierce dual between violin, viola and guitar.

La Lluvia (the rain) is a musical journey and is told by a woman lying beside her lover sleeping in the night's shadows. They are together while she listens to the rain falling outside their window, and he is awakened. This song is part "Wish You Were Here", part "Little Wing" and part Leonard Cohen.

Sigh is an Americana soul tune about the desperation, lies, addiction and betrayal that have left men and women estranged while still offering a window of release and exhalation. Patrice Pike, a longtime Nordstrom confidant and established international recording artist (Patrice Pike/Sister 7) sings with the

Cuevas sisters on the track's chorus. The song moves along lines influenced by The Doors, Love and Crazy Horse.

You and Me Against the Moon epitomizes the sound of Maria the Mexican and is performed with a deep back beat amidst swirling trumpets and saxophones. **You and Me Against the Moon** happens during the day when the moon is still bright. It tells the story of two that will never part ways and is complimented by Stark's harmon muted trumpet solo. This song is a little Santana and a little Steely Dan.

The instrumental title track, **Moon Colored Jade**, conveys tension and release and showcases Jason Riley's emotional acoustic guitar playing.

Bésame Mucho is the second traditional song on the record and was arranged by the Cuevas sisters. It means "kiss me a lot" and is the group's take on the often recorded jazz and mariachi standard.

I Hear a Voice is a song influenced by the sounds of the Southwest and features Stark's *Sketches of Spain* influenced trumpet solo. It is the tale of lovers under the stars whispering through the night.

That Heart is the finale. Its full symphony middle section sound is something rarely heard in today's modern music. With lyrics such as "go ahead and run back inside, you know that heart is mine," Maria the Mexican distinguishes itself as one of the most versatile bands to come forward in some time.

More information about Maria the Mexican, their debut album and their live performance dates can be found online via www.mariathemexican.com

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