

## Quiet confidence for Mother Mother

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MOTHER MOTHER

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The Exchange

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Mother Mother leader and chief songwriter Ryan Guldemon is pretty happy about what time has done to his art-rock-jazz band over the years.

He looks back fondly at the days of Mother Mother's infancy when he explored all that was new to him, including writing songs. That's when the music school dropout really let the juices flow, fiddling with music styles, trying out wacky lyrics and generally following wherever his enthusiasm led.

Now, the band has settled in, its giddy enthusiasm replaced by a confidence that has helped the band find its sound, and continued to work on its evolution.

"When you start out, you don't have a sound. You have a licence to explore any avenue," Guldemon says over the phone from his Vancouver home before Mother Mother's dozen-show tour across Western Canada.

"The band started at a time when I was just getting into songwriting. It was a new exciting realm for me to explore. I think that's where the diversity and the sort of eclectic mayhem came from.

"Over the past few years, it's developed into something more cohesive and less, well, old."

Now, since the band is barely four years old, Mother Mother is slated to release its most ambitious project to date. *O My Heart* is to hit stores in September, a milestone that's important in this band's young life.

Guldemon may refer to the anticipated touring and interviews and other work that comes with the shipment of a new CD as a "rigamarole," but it's also seen as a big step in the band's sound evolution.

The band, known for its quirky lyrics, playful melodies and the harmonies produced by Guldemon and his sister and bandmate Molly, believes the Mother Mother sound has slowly become something that fans can better identify.

"I definitely wouldn't call us modern funk jazz. But I think that it's evolved into a modern jazz rock, or even modern art rock is the safest home for it now.

"Originally, it was a little more eclectic and it had many of the novelty elements like old-time jazz, country and kitschy, tongue-in-cheek stuff attached to it. And that was born out of the fact it was beginning, because at first you do whatever you want."

Guldemon says his attraction to music has come from the out-of-the-ordinary, and he says music by the Pixies, Beatles and Talking Heads are reasons behind his enthusiasm for music.

"I have an appreciation for bands that produced different pop music and eccentric pop music."

Now, he knows that Mother Mother has become a more focused unit thanks to a better understanding of where the band wants to go. All of this evolution is evidenced on the new CD, he says.

"To me, it sounds more mature," he says. "We've been working a lot on taking the live shows to a new place -- we consider production values. We're trying to broaden the sound a little bit instead of this pared down sound made up of guitar, bass and drums."

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