

# JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

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## ARIA AWARD WINNING BAND TO PLAY NEW MUSIC FOR BRISBANE

Judith Wright Centre, BEMAC and Kultour present  
**ZULYA AND THE CHILDREN OF THE UNDERGROUND**

*"..she is one of the most important contributors to the overall pattern of a contemporary Australian music in this society."* Felix Hayman, ABC Classic FM

ARIA Award winning band **Zulya and the Children of the Underground**, who are embarking on a national tour to launch their new album, *Tales of Subliming*, will perform at the Judith Wright Centre on Sunday 11 April 2010.

**Zulya and the Children of the Underground** won an ARIA Award for Best World Music Album for their last recording, *3 Nights*, which also spent four months in the Top 10 of the European world music charts.

Well-known in Brisbane for her guest performances with *Doch Gypsy Orchestra*, *Women in Voice* and her last sold-out concert at Judith Wright Centre in 2007, **Zulya** says her new music was inspired by the fairytales of her childhood.

"*Tales of Subliming* is a collection of vignettes based on fairytales; each song brings to life the journey of a female character including Gerda from Snow Queen, the Snow Maiden and Baba Yaga (the Russian witch)," Zulya said.

"It was exciting to explore these characters through song as there is a lot more going on in fairytales than we can see at first glance; fairytales are about our journeys to achieve individuality in a symbolic form," she said.

"Some say each of us identifies with our own fairy story or with a character from one. Because of this I am confident that the audience will find the music evocative, fascinating, thought-provoking and uplifting," she said.

**Zulya and the Children of the Underground** combines the melancholy, beauty and drama of Zulya's song writing and the extraordinary musicianship of her collaborators.

Described by critics as a blend of Russian and Tatar ethnic music and contemporary European jazz, Zulya's songwriting traverses country, cumbia, klezmer, jazz, classical, Russian folk, Mexican and circus music styles.

For *Tales of Subliming* the distinctive trumpet of new band member Eamon McNelis (Flap!, Vada) assumes the role of primary solo instrument, shifting the emphasis away from the mostly Russian sound of the band's two earlier releases.

Contrary to Zulya's previous albums, which have been primarily written in Russian, *Tales of Subliming* features seven songs written in English.

Growing up in Tatarstan, Russia, in a musical family, Zulya was immersed in a culture of family gatherings with lots of song around the table and started performing at age nine.

Since moving to Australia in 1991, Zulya has performed at festivals and venues across the country including Sydney Opera House, WOMADELAIDE and Woodford Folk Festival, among others.

Zulya was awarded Female Artist of the Year by the 2001 Australian World Music Awards and won Best Live World Music Artist by the 2002 Australian Live Music Awards.

Embarking on a national tour to launch their new album, *Tales of Subliming*, **Zulya and the Children of the Underground** will perform for one-night-only at the Judith Wright Centre on Sunday 11 April 2010.

-ENDS-

<b>Date</b>	Sunday 11 April 2010
<b>Time</b>	6.30pm
<b>Venue</b>	Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts
<b>Tickets</b>	Reserved Cabaret \$37; Theatre Full \$32, Theatre Concession \$28
<b>Bookings</b>	07 3872 9000 or <a href="http://judithwrightcentre.com">judithwrightcentre.com</a>

For further information, images and interview opportunities please contact  
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# JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

## ZULYA KAMALOVA – BIOGRAPHY

Zulya Kamalova has performed in the world music genre since 1995. In that time she has attracted national and international acclaim. Zulya has self-produced five albums to date:

- 2007: with The Children of the Underground, *3 Nights*.  
An original album in three languages (Russian, Tatar and English), which received the ARIA for Best World Music Album 2007 and spent four months in the top 10 of the European World Music Charts in 2007.
- 2004: with The Children of the Underground, *The Waltz of Emptiness (and Other Songs on Russian Themes)*.  
An original album in Russian, which received National Film and Sound Archive Award for Best Album 2005 and spent four months in the top 20 of the European World Music charts in 2005.
- 2002 (in Europe 2004): *elusive*.  
An original third album in Tatar (nominated for Best World Music Album, ARIA awards 2003)
- 1999 (in Europe 2002): *Aloukie* - a contemporary rendition of traditional Tatar songs of her heritage together with her own compositions (awarded World Music Album of the Year 2000 at the Australian World Music Awards)
- 1997: *Journey of Voice*  
A collection of songs from various cultures (critically acclaimed and repeatedly featured on ABC National Radio).

In 2001 Zulya was awarded Female Artist of the Year 2001 by Australian World Music Awards and in 2002 The Best LIVE World Music Artist by Australian Live Music Awards. Tracks from her album have been featured on various compilation albums including three released by Putumayo (a renowned American world music label): *Music from the Tea Lands*, *Dreamland* (alongside Angelique Kidjo and Carlos Santana) and *Asian Dreamland*; ClubStar's *Asian Garden* (Germany); ABC Classics' *The Nightingale and Felix and me*; Music Deli's *Celebration*, and; *Australian Folk Federation Compilation* to name but a few.

In March 2002 and also in Oct 2004, ABC TV screened a 30-minute documentary about Zulya's artistic practice on the Arts Show Coast to Coast program. She has performed at major festivals and venues all around Australia, including WOMADELAIDE, 10 Days on the Island, Woodford Folk Festival, Asian Music and Dance Festival, the Sydney Opera House Studio, The Basement, Brisbane Powerhouse, QPAC, The Boite, Bennett's Lane Jazz Club, and the Spiegeltent.

Zulya has also performed across Europe at venues and festivals such as The Moods (Zurich, Switzerland), Kulturbrauerei (Berlin, Germany), Savoy Teatteri (Helsinki, Finland), Södra Teatern (Stockholm, Sweden), Szene (Vienna, Austria), Kulturfabrik (Luxembourg), Red Square (Moscow, Russia), Piramida (Kazan, Tatarstan), Living Water Festival (Altai Mountains, Siberia), Red Club (St.Petersburg, Russia) and many others.

[www.zulya.com](http://www.zulya.com)

## THE CHILDREN OF THE UNDERGROUND – BIOGRAPHIES

### EAMON MCNELIS (TRUMPET/PIANO)

Eamon began playing trumpet and jazz at age eight. Four years later he was accepted into the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School. In 1999, Eamon participated in the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra's Young Composers Program and had his piece, *The Little Man and the Deep Blue Sky*, recorded by the MSO. With an educational background in straight-ahead jazz, Eamon works extensively around Melbourne in a range of musical styles. Eamon has recorded albums with The Band Who Knew Too Much (Bush-Jazz), The Adam Simmons Toy Band (performance/comedy/jazz troupe), City City City (vaguely indie-rock) and Jen Cloher (Singer/Songwriter). Eamon has played with everyone from drag queens to tradjazz groups, from modern jazz to mariachi. He tours Australia several times a year and has toured Europe with The Hoodangers, Irish band Grada and The Band Who Knew Too Much. He has played at the Wangarratta Jazz Festival, The Meredith Music Festival, Melbourne Jazz Festival, and the Port Fairy Folk Festival among others. In 2006 Eamon toured Scandinavia with The Band Who Knew Too Much, where his original composition "princess mary" won much praise from the Danish locals. Also while in Denmark he won the 'Jazz Pris' at the Femoe Jazz Festival. Eamon is involved in a cross-cultural project with a perovetan (prophet song) choir from Tatana village in Papua New Guinea. A collaboration between the choir and group Vada, the work premiered at Brisbane Festival and was subsequently performed through Arts House at the Meat Market in North Melbourne, WOMADelaide and at the Port Moresby Arts Centre.

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## THE CHILDREN OF THE UNDERGROUND – BIOGRAPHIES CONT'D

### **JUSTIN MARSHALL (DRUMS/PERCUSSION)**

Since graduating from the VCA in 2001, Justin has been in high demand as a musician, composer and teacher. He was a founding member of Speak Percussion and has performed all over Australia and in Europe, at major festivals and venues and performed and recorded with groups such as Aria Award winning Zulya and the Children of the Underground, Silent Box, Umlaut, The Shoephone Trio, The Counterfeit Gypsies, The Fold, Blue Drag as well as with solo artists like Carl Panuzzo, Kate Greally and Jali Buba Kuyate. He has been involved in a variety of theatrical music projects and performances including the opening of the Castlemaine State Festivals' *Heraldo* and the *Flamingo Flamingo Orchestra*, The West Side Circuses Fringe show, *The Albatross*, Polyglot Puppets' *We Built This City*, *The Big Game* and *Hissy Fit* and Punctums' *Miss Friday's Dance Class*. He has composed many pieces, some of which have featured in documentaries like *Heart* by Big and Little Films/ABC, winner of Best Documentary at MIFF 2008, *Sisters and Pearls* and *Halal Mate* by Rebel Films/SBS, and animations like *Shhh* directed by Adam Robb and produced by the VCA, winner of AFI best animation 2002. He is currently living and running a studio in Castlemaine and continues composing for screen, his own groups and student ensembles.

### **ANDREW TANNER (DOUBLE BASS AND JEW'S HARP)**

Andrew has made a name for himself as an exceedingly versatile double bassist, multi-instrumentalist, composer and writer, performing and writing with groups spanning genres as disparate as death metal, latin, free improvisation, gypsy, punk, cabaret, classical and jazz. Andrew has performed throughout Australia with Vodka Party, The Brothers Boing, Zulya and the Children of the Underground, the Tania Bosak Moods in Mambo Ensemble and Rektango, has played in Moscow with his own project, the Andrew Tanner Band, and more recently throughout Australia with VulgarGrad, performing Russian criminal songs, and in Melbourne with country-punk outfit Roadkill Rodeo, and Kurdish funk group Baran. Andrew has toured Europe and Russia with Zulya and the Children of the Underground, and has performed with Zulya as part of other ensembles throughout Europe and Russia, including Serbia, Finland, Tatarstan and Siberia.

### **LUCAS MICHAILIDIS (GUITAR)**

Since the release of his solo CD, *The Offering*, guitarist/composer Lucas Michailidis has received attention worldwide, along with glowing reviews throughout Australia. In September 2001 he received first prize in the international acoustic guitar competition 'Open Strings' held in Osnabrueck, Germany. The win landed him European distribution with Acoustic Music Records and a solo spot at the following 2002 festival. His work has captured the attention of leading American fingerstyle authority, John Stropes who has since published work in the United States by Michailidis as part of the 'Great Compositions by Emerging Artists' series. Stropes is associated with the likes of Leo Kotke, Michael Hedges and Alex DeGrassi. Michailidis has opened for David Wilcox in the US and has performed at all notable venues throughout Australia.

[www.lucasmichailidis.com](http://www.lucasmichailidis.com)