

Pizarro: MACLA celebrating 25th anniversary in downtown San

Jose

By Sal Pizarro spizarro@mercurynews.com

Updated: 04/09/2015 01:16:55 PM PDT

MercuryNews.com

MACLA is hosting three performances this weekend by Rana Santacruz, a Mexican musician who has been redefining the sound of Mexican-American music with his multigenre instrumentation and style. It's his only Bay Area appearance to support his upcoming album, "Por Ahí," which is being released for Cinco de Mayo and reveals influences of Irish music and bluegrass. San Jose singer/songwriter Cado Dos Santos, who recently hit his goal on Indiegogo to fund his own album, "Imigrante," will be the opening act. That's a lot of sound to pack into MACLA's small theater, the Castellano Playhouse.

But a much bigger event is on the horizon: The 25th anniversary celebration and Latino Art Now auction on May 16. The 17th annual auction features dozens of pieces by artists from the Bay Area and beyond, including Pilar Agüero Esparza, Victor Cartagena, Melanie Cervantes and Wayne Alaniz Healy. Some items will be bought during the auction and others will be available through a "Loteria" -- essentially a raffle drawing that lets winners pick their artwork. The auction exhibition is opened Friday.

The auction is being coupled with a celebration taking place afterward at Parque de los Pobladores, right across South First Street from the gallery, featuring live music. People who buy tickets for the auction get into the celebration automatically, but you can also buy a ticket just for the after-party if you're not planning to bid.

More details, including ticket information, on the Rana Santacruz performances and the 25th anniversary celebration are available at www.maclaarte.org.

RINGING IN THE SPRING: Dave Ruder stepped down last year after organizing the annual "Spring Ring" at Valley Church in Cupertino for 24 years, but fear not, the bells will be return to the church Saturday for its 25th year. More than 200 English handbell ringers -- mostly from the Bay Area, but including others from other parts of California and out-of-state -- will take part in the event, which includes a 6 p.m. concert that's open to the public.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIR: Students at Sequoia High School in Redwood City will be celebrating cultures from around the world at its International Festival, being held on campus Saturday from 2 to 6:30 p.m. The festivities include carnival games, and performances by student singers, dancers and musicians and showings of "Living on One Dollar," a documentary about four friends who decide to live for eight weeks in Guatemala on just a dollar a day.

Contact Sal Pizarro at spizarro@mercurynews.com or 408-920-5473. Follow him at [Facebook.com/mercurynews.aroundtown](https://www.facebook.com/mercurynews.aroundtown) and [Twitter.com/spizarro](https://twitter.com/spizarro).