Alma Afrobeat Ensemble

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Alma Afrobeat Ensemble is the perfect incarnation of both the city where the band resides (**Barcelona**), and the music the band plays (**Modern Afrobeat**). They are 9 members from nine different countries, all of whom come from different musical and sociocultural backgrounds to combine and form their own flavor.

The band plays their own unique, modern style of **Afrobeat**, an international music originated by **Fela Kuti** and **Tony Allen** in **Lagos**, Nigeria (birthplace of the band's singer, **Joe Psalmist**), and informed by their musical and political experiences living abroad, first in London, then through visits to Los Angeles and around the world. The founder of AAbE, **Aaron Feder,** has had similar travels. He is originally from **Chicago**, but moved to Barcelona in 2006 in search of different musical flavors and a different outlook on life. The other members of the band have also chosen to live in Barcelona, an international city whose modernity is defined by immigration from all over the world, with a bit of everything for everyone.

The music they play is like Barcelona itself; **energetic**, **multi-layered** and **multifaceted**, sometimes **frenetic**, sometimes **tranquil**. As Barcelona has many different neighborhoods, some more traditional in their style, some more modern, AAbE has many different elements present; both the traditional and unique modern elements necessary not only for an Afrobeat group, but also for a vibrant, creative and unique band regardless of style. They have the classic Afrobeat line-up of drums and percussion, guitars, and keys, yet they have a bassoon in the horn section, and they include DJ's, remixes and other aspects of modern electronic music in their albums. Once in a while you can hear a Fela Kuti cover in their setlist, but you are just as likely to hear a Bob Marley song taken to Afrobeat territory. Or maybe the setlist that night just includes original material taken from their three (soon to be four in early 2018) full-length albums.

As you walk through the different neighborhoods of Barcelona, you can look up at the architecture, down at the intricately carved sidewalks, or look around at the people sitting in cafés conversing. In AAbE you can sway to the rhythms provided by the drums, congas, shekeré and clave, you can nod your head to the funky horn stabs and trance inducing grooves of the guitars, or you can lose yourself in the insightful lyrics and call and response singing of Joe Psalmist and the back-up singers.

AAbE provides a high-energy, hard hitting live show, which is the fruit of their many concerts around Spain and Europe, as well as their two (soon to be three) tours of the United States. The band is constantly evolving, constantly incorporating new music and guest artists, and constantly making fans around the world dance and think at the same time. Their fourth studio album is due out in early 2018, and the first single, "**Remember**" has already been released.

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Important Links

New single: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iANoQ-cl1lI

Web: http://www.almaafrobeat.com

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/AlmaAfrobeat/

Twitter: https://twitter.com/almaafrobeat

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/almaafrobeatensemble/

Spotify: https://open.spotify.com/artist/5t1U1OKkTTogStjxqgxwtR

Itunes:
https://itunes.apple.com/us/artist/alma-afrobeat-ensemble/id391264955

Youtube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/user/almaafrobeat

Soundcloud: https://soundcloud.com/alma-afrobeat-ensemble

Bandcamp: https://almaafrobeatensemble.bandcamp.com/

Alma Afrobeat Ensemble
Press Quote Highlights

DJ Floro: "The band of reference for Afrobeat in Spain."

It's Time (2016)

Songlines (UK): "The four conventional tracks are superb-instrumentally exciting with great horn playing." Four stars.
Weekend Australian: "4 stars. ..trancelike rhythms...the original Afrobeat template...featuring feverish female chorus singing...Santana-esque electric guitar..."
Global a Go Go (USA): "An excellent new album from one of the handful of the finest Afrobeat bands on the planet right now."
El País (Spain): "This project surpasses the origins of Afrobeat, with elegant arrangements, socially and politically charged lyrics, all the while opening up the dance floor with a dose of trance and powerful improvised solos".
Jazzism (the Netherlands): "It's Time is a musical experience of the highest level".
Tropicalidad (the Netherlands): "With It's Time...Alma Afrobeat Ensemble indicates that it really is indeed time for a change".
Rifraf 273 (Belgium): "All this provides us with a convincing and danceable album..."
Mondo Sonoro (Spain): Number 6 of Best World Music albums 2015
R!ritmos (Spain): "As Diogenes said, movement is shown by walking. If this is true, then the revolution will be shown by dancing. Alma Afrobeat Ensemble would surely agree".
Diario del Alto Aragón (Spain): The album of the week is "...the authentic, deep flavor of Afrobeat".
ARA (Spain): "The reference for African music in Barcelona...this album goes deep into the ethics and aesthetics of Afrobeat."
Jazz Weekly (International): "...vintage Central African Afrobeat. Hints of Earth, Wind and Fire mix with upbeat keyboards and deep vocals;.

Life No Get Dublicate (2014)

Enlace Funk (Spain): "...a militant Afrobeat gem."
La Vanguardia: "...like a jam with Toots Thielemans and the Last Poets, worthy of Blue Note."
Heaven (the Netherlands): "Exciting and irresistible. An album to get excited about."
Global a Go Go: "...they compulsively keep a danceable meter going...2014 has been a banner year for new Afrobeat releases; this is one of the best of a very fine bunch."
F-roots: "Great sleeve art...a rather cleaner kind of afrobeat...it packs a punch!"
FAME: "This is complex and sophisticated jazz with tons of interlocking lines, cool-ass energetic backing vocals...the beat and levels of groove are irresistible."
Potlista (Croatia): "Life No Get Dublicate certainly is an album that offers the best of African music and contemporary interpretations of the same...songs for the dance floor."
World Music Central: "Savagely cool, Life No Get Dublicate sates that thirst for what comes next in the evolution of Afrobeat. Marked by tight, neat musicianship and innovative sound, Alma Afrobeat Ensemble is indeed a bright spot on the Afrobeat scene."

Toubab Soul (2010)

Afropop Worldwide: "As dark and intensely danceable as any African musical experience can be."
Rock the Body Electric: "This Catalan act...(attracts) fans and followers of the traditional Afrobeat sound while still engaging more adventurous minded jamband fans at the same time."
La Vanguardia: "This band has learned the lesson of Afrobeat well: a music that drinks from the well of hip-hop, funk, jazz, psychodelic, which is to say, an Afrobeat free of mental barriers."
Inside World Music: "The music is complex and deeply rooted in the musics of Africa, Europe and Latin America...(with) pulsating sounds of jazz, funk, Latin and world fusion."
Lucid Culture (no. 92 of the best albums of 2010): "This is one of the most amazingly melodic, memorable albums of the year...Lush, hypnotic, often fiery Ethiopian influenced grooves..."

Concert List:

Alma Afrobeat Ensemble

2008-present

(Concerts are in Spain, unless otherwise noted)

2017

8/12 Festival: “Slow Walk Music”, Barcelona
13/9 Club: “El Apolo”, Barcelona (with London Afrobeat Collective)
12/8 Festival: “Rototom”, Benicassim

USA Tour

9/7 Festival: “Concerts at the Commons”, Lake Tahoe, California
8/7 Club: “Ashkenaz”, Berkeley, California
7/7 Club: “Boom Boom Room”, San Francisco, California
6/7 Club: “Humbrews”, Arcata, California
3/7 Club: “The Emporium”, with ESSO!, Chicago, Illinois
2/7 Club: “IMC”, Urbana, Illinois + Afrobeat Masterclass
1/7 Club: “The Red Herring”, Duluth, Minneapolis, Minnesota
30/6 Club: “The Cedar”, Minneapolis, Minnesota
29/6 Festival: “Jazz in the Park”, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
28/6 Club: “The Wild Hare”, Chicago, Illinois
27/6 Club: “Skellington Manor”, Davenport, Iowa
25/6 Festival: “Summer Dance”, Grant Park, Chicago
24/6 Club: “Founder’s Brewery”, Grand Rapids, Michigan
23/6 Club: “Wilbert’s”, Cleveland, Ohio
22/6 Club: “210”, Highwood, Illinois

21/5 Festival: “Hidrosfera”, Tenerife, Canary Islands
19/5 Club: “The Paper Club”, Las Palmas, Canary Islands
6/5 Festival: “Freakout: Kulturbahnhaus”, Jena, Germany
5/5 Club: “YAAM”, Berlin, Germany
31/3 Club: “Can Basté”, Barcelona
4/3 Festival: “Fabricarte”, Barcelona

2016

4/9 Festival: “Veggie Fest 2016” Sabadell
16/8 Festival: “Collioure Festival”, France
15/8 Festival: “Fiestas de Grácia”, Barcelona
12/7 Festival: “La Semana Negra”, Gijón
9/7 Festival: “SLAP! Festival”, Zaragoza (with the JB’s)
23/6 Club: “CLF Arts Café”, London, UK
17/6 Club: “Marula Café”, Barcelona
4/6 Store: “FNAC” Barcelona (In-store appearance)

USA Tour

28/5 Club: “Cowboy Monkey”, Champaign, Illinois
27/5 Club: “The Grog Shop”, Cleveland, Ohio
25/5 Club: “Old Town School of Folk Music”, Chicago
24/5 Radio Concert: “Radio M” on WBEZ, con Tony Sarabria
22/5 Club: “The Cedar Cultural Center”, Minneapolis, MN
21/5 Club: “Fire on Water”, Milwaukee, WI
21/5 Children’s Show: “Garfield Park Conservatory”, Chicago (Juicebox Series, from Chicago Dep’t of Cultural Affairs)
20/5 Club: “The Emporium Wicker Park”, Chicago
20/5 Children’s Show: “Chicago Cultural Center”, Chicago (Juicebox Series, from Chicago Dep’t of Cultural Affairs)

16/4 Club: “Tempo”, Madrid
9/3 Club: “La Capsa”, El Prat del Llobregat

2015

4/12 Festival: “Bulles d’Afrique”, Bordeaux, France
28/11 Club: “Les Enfants”, Barcelona (álbum release party for “It’s Time”)
28/8 Festival: “Fiestas de San Agustín”, Ibiza
8/8 Club: “Niágara”, Santander
7/8 Festival: “Noches de Jazz”, Plaza del Mercado Cantábria
6/8 Festival: “Noches de Jazz”, Centro de Cultura, Laredo
5/8 Club: “Playas de Isla”, Isla
9/7 Festival: “Cultura Inquieta”, Plaza de Toros, Getafe, Madrid (with Osibisa)
28/6 Festival: “Fiesta mayor de Rubí”, Rubí
27/6 Festival: “Noche Étnica Mestizaje”, Alicante
16/5 Festival: “Fiestas de San Isidro”, Madrid
9/5 Club: “Alamzic”, Bagneres de Bigorre, France
2/5 Club: “La Masia”, Sant Boi, Barcelona
1/5 Club: “Bikini”, Barcelona (with Jahcub and the Chosen Ones)
21/3 Club: “Casa das Crexas”, Santiago de Compostela, Galicia
20/3 Club: “Café Cultural Auriense, Galicia
13/3 Club: “Enfants”, Barcelona
28/2 Club: “La Sala”, Ceuta
27/2 Club: “Boogaclub”, Granada
13/2 Club: “Café Berlín”, Madrid

2014

18/12 Festival: “Universidad de Barcelona, End of Year Party”, Barcelona,
24/10 Festival: “InEdit”, Aribau Cinema, Barcelona (presentation Fela Documentary)
4/10 Festival: “Umami”, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
19/9 Festival: “Fiestas de La Mercé”, Plaza Cataluña de Barcelona

19/9 Store: “FNAC” Barcelona (In-store appearance)
16/8 Festival: “Lez Arts”, Laguepie, France
9/8 Festival: “Mas i Mas”, Club Tarantos, Barcelona
24/5 Festival: “Quartiers en Fete”, Carcassone, France
17/5 Club: “Akwaba”, Chateauneuf de Gadagne, France
10/5 Festival: “Blackcelona”, Club Boite, Barcelona,
27/4 Festival: “Aragón Tierra Abierta”, Huesca,
19/4 Club: “Camji”, Niort, France
21/3 Festival: “Tribute to Mandela”, Club Salamandra, L’Hospitalet de Llobregat
8/2 Club: Jamboree, Barcelona,

2013

16/10 Festival: “Save the Ramona”, Club Apolo 1, Barcelona
11/10 Club: “Ateneu de Nou Barris”, Barcelona
14/9 Festival: “Mercat de Música Viva de Vic”, Vic
24/8 Festival: “Afrocaña”, Barceloneta,
8/8 Festival: “Fusión! Contemporánea”, Huelva
8/6 Festival: “ESMUC fin de curso”, L’Auditori, Barcelona,
7/6 Club: Bar Electric, Barcelona (Residency)
7/5 Club: Bar Electric, Barcelona (Residency)
4/4 Club: Bar Electric, Barcelona (Residency)
15/3 Club: Marula Café, Barcelona, (Residency)
23/2 Club: Marula Café, Barcelona, (Residency)
26/1 Club: Marula Café, Barcelona, (Residency)

2012

28/11 Club: Apolo 2, Barcelona
15/9 Festival: “Mercat de Músiva Viva de Vic” (DIVERSONS)
1/9 Club: “Teatre del Casal”, Calaf

(Diversons is an organization that sponsored tours for World Music Artists throughout Spain. All concerts were festival style shows in plazas and amphitheaters throughout the country)

24/8 Girona (Diversons Tour)
17/8 Villena (Diversons Tour)
14/8 Murcia (Diversons Tour)
4/8 Jaca (Diversons Tour)
29/7 Olivenza (Diversons Tour)
28/7 Santander (Diversons Tour)
27/7 Santander (Diversons Tour)
26/7 Santander (Diversons Tour)
25/7 Formentera (Diversons Tour)

14/7 Extremadura (Diversons Tour)
29/6 Getxo (Diversons Tour)
24/6 Festival: “Music in the Monastery”, Ulldecona
26/5 Festival: “Cultura Inquieta”, Getafe, Madrid
12/5 Festival: Professional Music Fair of Vilaseca
1/5 Figueres (Diversons Tour)
31/3 Club: La Rebel, Vilassar de Dalt, Barcelona
26/3 Television Concert: “Conciertos de Radio 3”, Madrid (nationally televised)
25/3 Festival: “Fiesta Radio3 en La Casa Encendida”, Madrid

(AIE is the Spanish Association of Artists and Performers, who also sponsor national tours)

17/3 Club: “Centro Social”, Málaga, (AIE Tour)
16/3 Club: “Club Supersonic”, Cádiz, (AIE Tour)
15/3 Club: “Club Boogaclub”, Granada, (AIE Tour)
3/3 Club: “Club Matisse”, Valencia, (AIE Tour)
2/3 Club: “El Junco”, Madrid, (AIE Tour)
1/3 Club: “Club Garcilazo”, Toledo, (AIE Tour)

2011
4/12 Festival: “Check In”, Barcelona
12/11 Festival: “WOMAD” Islas Canarias,
14/10 Festvial “Felabration!”, El local de la Mary, Barcelona
15/9 Festival: “Mercat de música viva de Vic”, Vic
8/9 Festival: “Ses festes de Jesús”, Ibiza
5/8 Festival: “Imagina Funk”, Jaén, ,
31/7 Club: “Museo del rock”, Barcelona
29/6 Club: “Apolo II”, Barcelona,
19/6 Club: “Museo del rock”, Barcelona
28/5 Festival: “Barnáfrica”, Barcelona
7/5 Club: “Museo del rock”, Barcelona
24/4 Club: “Eléctric Bar”, Barcelona, (Residency)
17/4 Club: “Eléctric Bar”, Barcelona, (Residency)
10/4 Club: “Eléctric Bar”, Barcelona, (Residency)
3/4 Club: “Eléctric Bar”, Barcelona, (Residency)
25/2 Club: “Ateneu de Nou Barris”, Barcelona
3/2 Club: “Hostal Centric Point”, Barcelona
22/1 Club: “Eléctric Bar”, Barcelona,

2010
07/11 Club: ”Apolo II”, Barcelona,
23/10 Festival: “Presentation of Subtravelling”, Barcelona Maritime Museum

30/9 Club: “La boca del Lobo”, Madrid
22/5 Club: “La Marula”, Barcelona
25/3 Club: “El Dorado”, Barcelona
3/3 Festival: “La Ramona”, Sala Apolo 1
30/1 Club: “Cafe Marula”, Barcelona
28/1 Club: “Hostal Centric Point”, Barcelona

2009
17/12 Club: “Marula Café”, Barcelona
13/11 Club: “Marula Café”, Barcelona
16/10 Club: “Marula Café”, Barcelona
6/8 Club: “Marula Café”, Barcelona
2/7 Festival: “Cruilla de Cultures World Music Festival (w/Konono No 1)”, Mataró,
23/4 Club: “Razzmatazz”, Barcelona

2008
18/7 Festival: “Fiestizaje 2008”, Vilafranca del Bierzo, Galicia
17/7 Club: “La Boca del Lobo”, Madrid
16/7 Club: “Eléctric Bar”, Barcelona

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Discography:

Album	Label	Year
It's Time	Slow Walk Music	2015
Life No Get Dublicate	Slow Walk Music	2014
Toubab Resouled (Remixes)	Alma Records	2011
Toubab Soul	Amphora Records	2010

Compilations and others

World Music from Catalonia *(Siempre Presente)*	Catalanarts	2016
Blackcelona 2: Soul, Funk and Groove sounds from Barcelona (*Blind Mind*)	Blackcelona	2014
La Música es el Arma del Futuro: Spanish bands cover the music of Fela Kuti (*Water No Get Enemy*)	Enlace Funk	2013
21st Century Afro Spectacular Vol. 4 (*The Fight is in the Streets*)	Paris DJs	2012
The Fight is in the Streets (DJ Floro Remix), 7" vinyl (remix of *Taskmaster*)	Enlace Funk	2011
World Music from Catalonia (*Kudja*)	Catalanarts	2011
Relix Magazine CD Sampler, September-October (*Kudja*)	Relix	2010