

Alma Afrobeat Ensemble

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Alma Afrobeat Ensemble was founded in **Chicago** in 2003 by guitarist **Aaron Feder**. In 2006 Aaron moved to **Barcelona** in search of a different sound for the AAbE. He quickly found a group of international members, from all continents of the globe. In a short time the band was reformed and headlined the **Fiestizaje** music and arts festival in 2008. The band then set about recording their first studio album, **Toubab Soul** which was released in 2010. Shortly afterwards, they released the remix album, **Toubab Resouled**, and opened the world music festival **Cruilla de Cultures** with **Konono No 1**.

Toubab Soul met with positive reviews from different international publications, such as **Afro-pop Worldwide**, calling the album “**as dark and intensely danceable as any African musical experience can be**”, and **DJ Floro** declared the band the best representation of Afrobeat in the country. While their energetic live show was winning over audiences in Spain, their studio work was included in a compilation CD from **Relix magazine**, part of a world music compilation from **TuneCore** digital distributors, and used as the soundtrack for the first ever Nigerian-Spanish film, **Super Zebraman**. Their connection with the visual arts continued when they had music included in the television show **Furgoaddictes**, and they recorded the music for the national TV show **Museo Coconut**.

At the same time the band also began their relationship with manager **Javi Zarco (Ojos de Brujo, Peret)**, who is also a founder of the **Afrobeat Project** cultural association in Spain. Their music was also included on an Afrobeat compilation from **Paris DJs** and later in the compilation **World Music from Catalonia**.

Their live shows continued to grow in intensity, and they hit the festival circuit, playing at **ImaginaFunk** with **Ebo Taylor**, and closing out the **WOMAD Canary Islands** festival in 2011. The following year saw them touring Spain various times, doing a **Radio 3** televised concert, shaking the **Casa Encendida** cultural center in Madrid, and being selected to participate in **Artistas en Ruta**, **Diversions** from La Caixa and the **MMVV** (Live Music Market in Vic).

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Fast forward to 2014, after two years of crossing the **Iberian Peninsula** and visiting the **Canary** and **Balearic Islands** on various occasions, they return to the studio to record their second album, ***Life No Get Dublicate***. At the same time, the record label **Slow Walk Music** is formed, and AAbE is on board. The album is released at the beginning of 2014 and receives positive reviews from multiple international sources, with **La Vanguardia** newspaper saying the album is “**worthy of Blue Note records**”. The band is featured on **PRI's the World**, and begins to expand outside of Spain. They are selected for the **AA++ musical exchange** with **France**, open the **Mercé Festival** in Barcelona for 10,000 people, return to a sold out show in the Canary Islands in the **Umami Music and Arts Festival**, and they are selected to tour Spain in the **Girando Por Salas** program. In November 2014, the band released a short animated film set to the song “*Majority Whip*”.

In 2015 the band changes direction a bit, with singer **Joe Psalmist**, from **Lagos, Nigeria** joining the band for their winter/spring tour of the peninsula, Balearic Islands and even a trip to the **African continent** to play in **Ceuta**. Additionally, they return to the studios of **Radio 3** for another nationally televised in studio concert.

Joe's soulful voice and inimitable stage presence brings the band to the next level. They spend winter recording a new album, and then spend the summer touring Spain and France once again, highlighted by multiple visits to **Madrid** in the **Fiestas de San Isidro** and the **Festival de Cultura Inquieta**, plus a return to **Ibiza**. Fall 2015 sees the release of their third studio album, ***It's Time***, combining brand new songs with brand new remixes as well. 2016 will see the band on their first **North American tour** as well.

Important links:

La Mercè Festival: <http://youtu.be/cBzvXAzL8nI>

Radio 3 : <http://www.rtve.es/alacarta/videos/los-conciertos-de-radio-3/-conciertos-radio-3-alma-afrobeat-ensemble/3035291/>

Music video: <http://youtu.be/MbGVWfCsn9A>

Web: www.almaafrobeat.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/almaafrobeatensemble

Twitter: www.twitter.com/almaafrobeat

Youtube: www.youtube.com/almaafrobeat