



ALMA AFROBEAT ENSEMBLE

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The Alma Afrobeat Ensemble (AAbE) was germinated in New Orleans in 2003, grew in Chicago under the influence of the music of Fela Kuti, encompassing the multicultural influences from the founder and mystical wizard of funk, jazz and high-life music. The band became its own self in its last years in Chicago/Champaign-Urbana, and has now matured in Barcelona during the last four years.

The recent history of the band is that its founder, leader and main composer, Aaron Feder, had the idea to combine his band from Chicago with musicians in Europe from all over the world, (South America, Africa, and Europe) under the flag of Afrobeat music, and the principles of social justice through that music. In 2006 Aaron moved to Barcelona to further explore the musical contacts he had made in 1998 and 2001 in other musical journeys to the Catalan capital. He began study with John Seame Adzraku, “Kwame”, a multi-instrumentalist from Ghana who has spent time with the late Fela Kuti, and shared the stage with him on multiple occasions.

The current lineup features Kwame on drums and vocals, as well as showcasing several of his own original compositions that can be heard in the Kwame Afro Vibes (Kwame’s own project, featuring Aaron Feder on guitar). The ensemble features world reknown players such as Audun Waage (trumpet player for Jojo Mayer, among others), Various members of the group have played with an endless list of superstars, such as Tito Puente, Fared Haque, Chano Dominguez, and Horacio El Negro.

Their unique blend of Afrobeat, Hip-Hop, Jazz and Psychedelic/Experimental music features bold, exploratory improvisation, as well as tight, intelligent rhymes from Baba of Black Baudelaire (in Europe), and Krukid (for US shows), all on top of a thick, tight rhythm section; the perfect combination for audiences across the globe.

The current European lineup is:

Aaron Feder (Chicago)- guitar

Octavio Hernandez (Canary Islands)- guitar

Kwame (Ghana)- drums, voice

Gustavo “Tato” Sassone (Argentina)- congas and percussion

Fernando “Dinki” Redondo (Canary Islands)- bass

Gonzalo Levin (Uruguay)- tenor saxophone

Audun Waage (Norway/London)- trumpet

Adriano Torregiani (Argentina)- baritone saxophone

Babacar Gaye (Senegal)- voice

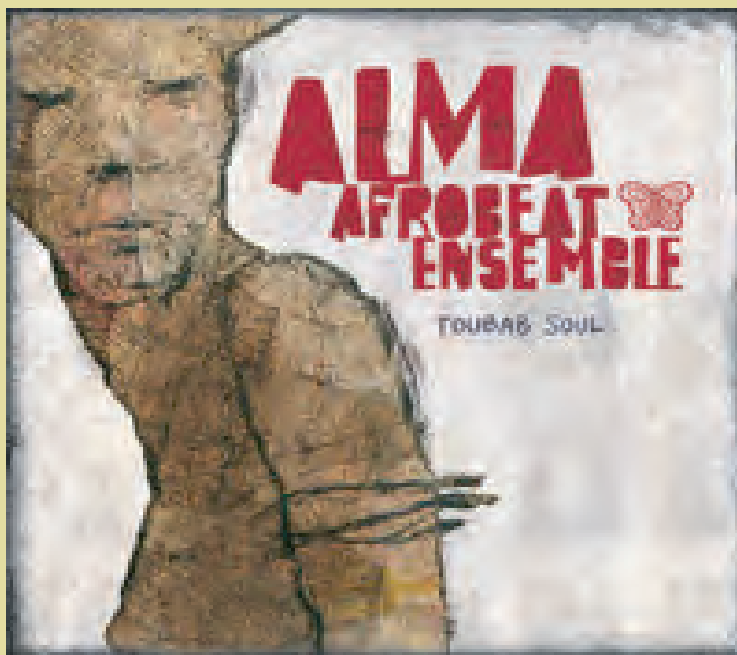
Oscar Ballester (Catalonia)- keys





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Fall 2010 has been quite a fruitful time for the Alma; their music appears in the first Nigerian/Spanish Nollywood film Super Zebraman. Additionally, their song Kudja appears in the sampler CD for Relix Magazine's Sept/Oct. edition (more than 150,000 copies worldwide, Relix is the second-oldest music magazine in the USA). Also, their song S. Africa is being used for the publicity campaign for the "Subtravelling Festival" of short films in the Barcelona Metro system, as well as being the theme song for the entire festival. They are also recording the music for the Antena 3/Neox television series "Museo Coconut" from the well-known comedians of Muchachada Nui. All of this in addition to releasing their full-length studio CD "Toubab Soul", and preparing for an impending visit to the Americas.





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NOTABLE CONCERTS

April 22, 2010

Nova Jazz Cava, Terrassa, Barcelona
Part of the “Jazz Promoció” Series

March 3, 2010

Sala Apolo, Barcelona
“La Ramona Sigue Sonando” Festival
With Fufu-Ai, Kwame Afrovibes, Chocadelia Internacional

July 2, 2009

Sala Clap, Mataró, Barcelona
Opening of the “Crülla de Cultures” world music festival, with Konono No 1

22 abril, 2009

Sala Razzmatazz, Barcelona
Presentation of the CD, “República Afrobeat Vol. 3” with DJ Floro

July 19, 2008

Vilafranca del Bierzo, León, Spain
Headliners, “Bumtaka Fiestizaje”, three day festival of African music and culture

January 4, 2008

Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, USA
Part of the “Lunchtime Concerts” series in the Loop, the center of Chicago

August 12, 2007

Millenium Park, Chicago, USA
“Illinois Great Performers” festival, with Grammy Award winner, Mavis Staples headlining

May 25, 2006

Chillicothe, Illinois, USA
Participant, “Summer Camp” music and camping festival, over 20,000 people attend

May 18, 2006

The Canopy Club, Urbana, Illinois, USA
Shared bill with Chicago Afrobeat Project



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