

Who are London Afrobeat Collective (LAC)?

1 Sentence

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2 Sentences

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5 Sentences

London Afrobeat Collective are a tight-knit family of musicians from around the world, living in London and united by a love of afrobeat and a desire to take original music to new places.

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Taking inspiration from afrobeat father Fela Kuti as well as such artists as Ebo Taylor, Parliament Funkadelic and Havana d'Primera, LAC's original music and multi-lingual performances in English, Spanish, Lingala and French have won them admirers across Europe. Their fourth studio album *Esengo* (Canopy Records - release date 14 February 2024), which means *Joy* in Lingala includes the new single *Topesa Esengo Na Motema (Let Us Give Joy To The Heart)* with remixes by Bosq, Voilaaa & Kiko Navarro.

London Afrobeat Collective- Full Biography and Personnel

8 musicians. One goal. To increase the positive energy in the world by making people dance!

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From Europe to Africa, Glastonbury Festival to Felabration in Lagos, they deliver party-music born of their truly global DNA. The 8-strong collective from England, Italy, France, Congo, Argentina and New Zealand combine traditional afrobeat with funk, jazz, rock, Latin and dub to create something unique.

In the early days, the band received a major boost when their 2010 debut album *L.A.C.* propelled them through the Glastonbury **Emerging Talent** contest to opening the West Holts stage in 2011. A host of festival dates followed (*Bestival*, *Secret Garden Party*, *Green Man*, *Cheltenham Jazz Festival*) and by 2015, when they released their second album *Food Chain*, they began to tour in continental Europe, whilst continuing to appear at UK festivals, and maintaining a regular presence at London venues.

The band combines a love and respect for the traditions of afrobeat with a willingness to create original music that crosses genres. They were honoured to be invited to play at Felabration at the Shrine in Lagos as part of their Nigerian tour and have collaborated live and in the studio with afrobeat greats Dele Sosimi and Tony Allen.

Performing in English, Spanish, Lingala, Yoruba and French and mixing traditional afrobeat with funk, jazz, rock, Latin and dub influences, London Afrobeat Collective developed an original sound that helps them to connect with diverse audiences.

Fast forward to 2019, and now well-established in the UK, France, Spain and Germany, the band was excited to expand their touring calendar even further with the release of their third studio album *Humans* and single *Power to the Women*, their first with acclaimed vocalist Juanita Euka. Like many musical acts globally, the pandemic sadly put progress on pause. However, with online collaboration tools in full force, the band turned their attention to crafting new material and have re-emerged with some of their strongest and most vibrant material to date.

Topesa Esengo Na Motema (Let Us Give Joy To The Heart) is the lead single from the 4th studio album *Esengo* (Canopy Records - release date 14 Feb 2024), which means *Joy* in Lingala. Produced by Sonny Johns (Tony Allen and Hugh Masekela, Oumou Sangare, Ali Farke Toure, Polar Bear) the track finds the band in lighter mood, celebrating the joy of living, reconnecting and getting back on the road once more. The single is accompanied by a remix from producer and DJ Bosq (<https://www.bosqmusic.com/>) that gives the song a unique afro-latin disco twist.

And with recent knock out performances stretching from opening the Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival (Scotland) to Bardentreffen (Germany), Tempo Latino (France) Couleur Café (Brussels), Cully Jazz (Switzerland), Earth Garden (Malta), Kala (Albania), Jazz in the Park (Romania) and many more venues across Europe, the future is joyful for London Afrobeat Collective.

Personnel:

Vocals - Juanita Euka
Rhythm Guitar - Alex Farrell
Lead Guitar - Alex Szyjanowicz
Bass - Luigi Casanova
Drums - Giuliano Osella
Percussion – Richie Sweet
Baritone Saxophone - Klibens Michelet
Trumpet - Andy Watts

Press Quotes

“A fulsome evocation of Fela Kuti’s continually inspiring blend of The J.B.’s-style jazz-funk horns lashed to a relentless mix of funky highlife and Yoruba, all delivered with aplomb....” – Time Out London

Virgin Music said of one festival performance *“London Afrobeat Collective, ... a multi-instrument band providing infectious, vibrant grooves to a crowd that literally wouldn’t let them leave the stage.”*

“[London Afrobeat Collective have] an ability to bring the late night Saturday party vibe... with a sonic stew which was infectious and accessible” The Scotsman (4 stars)

“fantastic emblem of the vibrant London Afrobeat scene... the group establish a perfectly mixed groove that immediately ensnares the listener” Songlines review of *Humans* (4 Stars)