

ARTIST ROSTER 2015



Produced by:



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



GLOBAL LOCAL GENRE PACKAGES

From Roma to rumba, Latin beats to Afro funk, new folk to no folk, Global Local brings you the best emerging musical remix talent the UK has to offer. We pride ourselves on rooting out the finest cutting-edge sounds which blend innovation and tradition. Produced by Continental Drifts Music and its partners, this ground breaking project consistently brings some of the best music around to festival stages throughout London and beyond.

BRASS BAND REMIX

The last few years has seen an explosion in new brass bands and they are more adventurous than at any time before, from totally unexpected covers of acts from Daft Punk to Labyrinth and more, this new Brass Style is perfect for bringing a great vibe to your gig. But then as well as playing a gig we get the band to join in with a plethora of DJs live. It's a booming and remarkable event that always works.

21st CENTURY SILK ROAD

The Silk road was that original route of music that transformed and delivered how we in the West see and feel music. Stretching from India to Spain, it gathered many genres: Balkan Brass, Flamenco, Polka and other music we love. This genre reflects anything along that root that mixes it up in a 21st Century Style .

Partners:



Woodburner

ACOUSTIC SOUNDCLASH

Two For Joy is the offspring of The Magpie's Nest, a new wave folk and acoustic club, the brainchild of Joe Buirski and Sam Lee. Both were dissatisfied with the lack of folk clubs in London catering to a younger audience and this package sets out to showcase the entire spectrum of the folk music genre in a fresh way.

Woodburner brings together the best folk, acoustic and world music in some the most interesting, underground, intimate spaces Hackney has to offer. Their weekly nights run as 'seasons' in different venue and have tapped into a phenomenally diverse roster of artists, with a large ever-growing community of loyal music-lovers. Woodburner has also run stages at festivals such as Secret Garden Party, Wilderness, Fire in the Mountain, plus many one-off events all over London. Ultimately, Woodburner's philosophy is simple: we put on live music of the very best quality, in a setting which allows it to shine!

MOVIMIENTOS

LATIN QUARTER

Latin Quarter aims to broaden conceptions of Latin music beyond the mainstream genres by representing the Latin and UK artists and acts who are striving to create exciting fusions of music - from folkloric roots to cutting edge electronic music.

AFRICAN ROOTMASTER

WORMFOOD

New African music has suddenly exploded across the world of popular music in ways few could have predicted. There is a new wave of African music taking the traditions to a thousand different places and creating an education for a whole new generation.

THE BEST FROM AFRICA



Focus Organization are a group of dynamic London-based music promoters who aim to bring together international musicians –afrobeat, soukous, kwaito, kurduro, ska, reggae artists – to create a series of culturally enriching events, putting the spotlight on music from the African diaspora and edutainment through the arts.

URBAN ROOTS



Vibes and Pressure is a collective and movement of some of the most exciting live talent hailing from London. From Roots Reggae, to Hip-Hop, Afro-rythms and more, what unifies and makes these artists shine is their organic yet urban sounds rooted in the African drum, a Rasta/conscious livity and great songwriting. As well as putting on their own events, working with young people here and in Africa, Vibes and Pressure have grown to also include a record label.

DESERT REMIX



Arabic and Middle Eastern music is often overlooked by the mainstream, despite the fact it is currently booming in the underground scene. The last few years has seen an explosion of Arabic crossover music from reggae to hip hop, to belly dancing breakbeats.

Arts Canteen is a place for stirring the arts. We curate events, exhibitions and festivals that support emerging artists from the Arab world and their diasporas in bringing their work to new audiences in the UK and beyond. We work with UK-based educational, non-profit, arts and outreach organisations to facilitate the exchange of art and ideas across social and geographical boundaries. Many artists from the Arab world face almost insurmountable difficulties in creating and displaying their work, and our projects provide a platform for them to gain exposure while also bringing enjoyable and enriching experiences to our audiences.

CLUB ATTITUDE



Attitude is Everything is an organisation that seeks to improve access to live music for deaf and disabled people by working in partnership with audiences, artists and the music industry to implement a Charter of Best Practice across the UK. It was set up in response to disabled people's complaints of unfair treatment at music venues, clubs and festivals. The project was set up in 2000 to work positively with the industry to raise awareness and was launched as an independent charity in 2008.

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BRASS BAND REMIX

TEMPLE FUNK COLLECTIVE



Temple Funk Collective are a 8 piece Brass Section from Oxford, UK. comprising of 7 horns, drums and percussion. Mixing modern tracks with New Orleans influences to create an up beat and lively sound.

[Video](#)
[Soundcloud](#)
[Website](#)

THE BRASS FUNKEYS

Spirited second line revelry, soulful jazz funeral marches, galloping gypsy czárdás and pumping brass driven funk!

[Video](#)
[Soundcloud](#)
[Website](#)



TRANS - SIBERIAN MARCH



A 13 piece Balkan Brass Band based in London, the Trans-Siberian March Band are a group the likes of which you will not have seen before.

Their borderless bag of musical styles includes our own arrangements of Balkan, Klezmer, Ska, Turkish, Russian and Latin flavoured tunes and an increasing number of home grown songs penned by members of the band. The perfect band for festivals, parties and weddings we never fail to get people dancing.

[Video](#)
[Soundcloud](#)
[Website](#)

OLD DIRTY BRASSTARDS



Old Dirty Brasstards is a 10-piece drum & brass combo, playing The Beatles to Lady Gaga by way of En Vogue. They love blowing your own trumpets!

[Video](#)
[Soundcloud](#)
[Website](#)

NEW YORK BRASS BAND

New York Brass Band are North Yorkshire's only contemporary New Orleans inspired Brass Band. Hailing from the ancient streets of York the band are part of a funky brass revolution that is sweeping the UK. Inspired by Rebirth Brass Band, Soul Rebels, Hot 8, Youngblood and Brassroots, NYBB pack a powerful punch of relentless drums, rumbling tuba and wailing horns... nothing kicks a party into gear like the sound of a smokin' New Orleans Mardi Gras Jazz Band.

[Video](#)
[Soundcloud](#)
[Website](#)



THE FAIREY BAND - ACID BRASS



William Fairie's band and world famous artist Jeremy Deller formed a brass band with the UK's most decorated Northern Colliery Style band – Rare appearances – A brass spectacular acid house brass music.

[Video](#)
[Website](#)

21st CENTURY SILK ROAD

USHTI BABA



Banging out stomping Balkan beats, heart wrenching Celtic melodies to live Jungle/DnB/Dupstep beat box. Gypsy Jungle Turbo Folkstep, raucous foot stomping good times!

Formed in November 2012, now an 8 piece band comprising of Sparrow Middleton, Jack Salt, Samuel MacDougall, Ursula 'Beastly' Billington, Berry Garnet, Hen-rah Edmonds, Sam G and Simon von Alexander. Early 2013 saw a jam-packed string of raucous performances around Bristol, and now the Babas are in full festival swing .

[Video](#)
[Soundcloud](#)
[Website](#)

DISCOUNT ORCHESTRA

Speed-FolkGypsy-Punk

From the raw, visceral energy of Gypsy-Punk, to the feet-twistingly manic tempos of Speed-Folk, The Discount Orchestra provide a high-octane, seven-piece blend of eclectic dance-floor stomp, guaranteed to get you bouncing.. hard-grifting rhythms, topped with melodic oddities. Folk music never sounded so live!

“London’s Finest Purveyors of Speed-Folk and Gypsy-Punk”

[Video](#)
[Soundcloud](#)
[Website](#)



IMMIGRANT SWING



The Immigrant Swing Project began in the cobbled paths of Bristol Town’s King Street in Autumn of 2012 bringing together musicians from around the world. The rhythm orientated trio which emerged consisted of a guitar (Raphael/France,Sicily), tuba (Tomaso/Sardegna), vocals and harmonica (Mao/Colombia). The original impulse seemed to merge the rhythms of Jazz Manouche - perfectly complemented by the balkanic sounds of the tuba - with a Hip-hop orientated vocal style, which would form the basis from which the project has evolved.

[Video](#)
[Soundcloud](#)
[Website](#)

BUFFO'S WAKE



Buffo's Wake takes the style of Eastern European gypsy music and spins it on its head with a dark and macabre twist. Formed in Brighton in October 2010, Buffo's Wake have recorded live sessions for the BBC, toured throughout Europe, played with some of the finest bands, stormed some of the best throughout the UK and made a hell of a lot of people dance.

Their strange and unique blend of Gypsy Punk and Horror Klezmer Ska has earned them a reputation as one of Brighton's best and most energetic live bands. With snarling vocals, offbeat lyrics and sweeping violins, they constantly find themselves in a frenzy of foot stomping, drink swilling Gypsy madness.

If you're a fan of Gogol Bordello, Cat Empire, Tom Waits, Molotov Jukebox, The Destroyers and Nick Cave, You'll probably go nuts for Buffo's Wake.

[Video](#)

[Soundcloud](#)

[Website](#)

TANTZ

'Tantz are a remarkable collective of talented equals making the most of traditional material in a truly modern way and by the end of their set they'd earned a serious dance response from a happy and sweaty canteen crowd.' Tony Benjamin, Venue Magazine

'4 tracks of klezmer crossover with eastern influences and a nod to the dance floor...this is fantastically played and written stuff!!!'

Jumbo Records review of the Tantz's 'Etrog Pomander EP'

'Tantz continued the gypsy vibe with a high-paced and exhaustingly gapless set that was more than enough to keep your...reviewer up into the early hours'

[Video](#)

[Soundcloud](#)

[Website](#)



SEAS OF MIRTH



"They are Seas Of Mirth and they are hilarious. They have gypsy melodies and Irish rhythms creating stomping sea chants with classic sing-alongs. Very gifted story tellers and musicians and the highlight of the night bar none." - LeftLion Magazine.

Avast! And welcome to the world of the Mirth, a group of debauched and maniacal japesters that have been plundering the British Isles and mainland Europe for the last several years or so. Combining hilarious live shows with pounding dance music, Seas of Mirth are a party band unlike any other around. With high speed gypsy beats, a thrashy folk influence and some majestic bellowing, they even manage to throw in a bit of old-school hip-hop for good measure. Imagine Gogol Bordello getting Mumford and Sons in a headlock, whilst Flogging Molly steals their lunch money and Grandmaster Flash kicks them in the shins. They can be seen and heard hollering nautical folk tales, punishment chants, misfortunate love ballads at sea, and musical yarns concerning mythical sea beasts.

[Video](#)

[Soundcloud](#)

[Website](#)

MANIERE DES BOHEMIENS



Manière des Bohémiens play improvised Django Reinhardt, Stephane Grappelli influenced Gypsy Jazz and Eastern European swing. They are the most debauched, ecstatic and downright amazing live band you will have seen for a long while.

Gypsy jazz played with the jaunty abandon of a misspent youth, an abusive PE teacher and a broken heart and arranged for 5 young virtuoso musicians who travel around playing the violin, guitar, clarinet and double bass whilst dipping in and out of Parisian alleyways and absorbing pieces of the colourful lives they meet along the way. They have been entertaining the folks of Nottingham and beyond for 3 years with their infectious blend of improvised, manouche jazz and rough-edged, virtuosic eastern-european gypsy-folk music.

[Video](#)

[Soundcloud](#)

[Website](#)

GYPSY STARS

Gypsy Stars are Roma (Gypsy) Music and Dance troupe, originally from Poland, now living in London. The band centres around family and friends, who have been playing together for several generations. They can play a variety of styles, including traditional Roma folk music from Eastern Europe and Russia, or the Gypsy Jazz styles made popular by musicians such as by Django Reinhardt. Traditionally the male members of the band play the instruments – Double Bass, Accordion, Acoustic Guitar, and Violin. The women sing most of the vocals and dance, wearing traditional Roma dress; long colourful flowing skirts and blouses, with golden embroidered detail. In 2013 the band played many concerts including the Festival of Roma culture at Ciechocinek, Poland, broadcast live on Polish television. They also played regular UK concerts including festivals throughout the Summer and the Roma journey festival with a full orchestra and choir at Colston Hall, Bristol. The band are also available for cultural workshops and are currently the subject of a documentary being made by the BFI.

[Soundcloud](#)

[Website](#)



ISA SUAREZ



Isa Suarez' eclectic mix of down and up-beat tracks with infectious & inspirational melodies, on her long awaited third album!

Arrangements are punctuated with dub, electro, Latin, pop, jazz and international folk influences. She also introduces a unique mix of cinematic musical styles in keeping with her enigmatic film soundtracks.

South-African rhythms meet electronics and atmospherics, vocals stream between English, French and Spanish.

[Video](#)

[Website](#)

ACOUSTIC SOUNDCLASH



Woodburner

RUM BUFFALO



Rum Buffalo fornicate with forgotten songs.

They mingle in many genres but feed off the rich antique roots of western swing and moody blues infiltrated with other styles like rumba, bossa nova and give theatrical vaudeville style performances.

Fronted by a creative duo, It's surreal swing and twisted vocal harmonies distinguish Rum Buffalo's sound.

[Video](#)
[Soundcloud](#)
[Website](#)

BARBARELLA'S BANG BANG

Accordion toting five piece, Barbarellas Bang Bang is a cacophony of carnivalistic delights; a combination of european gypsy folk and theatrical pop musicality. With roots in eastern and roman Europe, Barbarellas Bang Bang provide a soundtrack of ecstasy to all occasions fronted by the stunning Barbarella, the bang bang will take you on a ride from the eyes of a puppet in a world of lost lovers, to bohemian dancehalls shadowed by broken suns.

It's like Laura Marling going all stage school and belting out World War II anthems. (Richard Melville)

[Video](#)
[Soundcloud](#)
[Website](#)



DON KIPPER



Don Kipper is a London-based ensemble dedicated to interpreting music of Eastern origin. Their repertoire includes Klezmer and Gypsy Jazz but ranges to Turkish Fasil music and Greek Rembetika. Whilst respecting the ancient origins of these forms Don Kipper love to arrange the music in new ways and also compose original music which fuse many styles and combine elements from a variety of backgrounds. The musicians in Don Kipper themselves have diverse musical origins stretching beyond the scope of the band's repertoire – such as Brazilian Samba, Celtic and West African music – and their arrangements are a testament to the band's belief that a fundamental energy connects many so named "world" and "folk" styles.... Introducing Don Kipper....

[Video](#)
[Website](#)

KANSAS SMITTY'S



The Kansas Smitty's House Band sprang from the need of a young, innovative group of jazz musicians to have a home in which to craft their collective sound.

When Smitty's eight members get together, they play with unmasked joy on both original and classic material. Their inspiration combines a love for the tight, complex swing arrangements of Basie, Fletcher Henderson and Sidney Bechet with an ear for contemporary sounds.

2014 saw national radio play on BBC Radio 2, a string of sold out shows across London and the release of the House Band's debut 7-inch single. A full-length album is chalked to be released in early 2015

[Video](#)

[Soundcloud](#)

[Website](#)

HONEYFEET

For a span of half a decade, the likes of John Ellis, Paddy Steer, Bill Leader and others have tried, for the love of God, to facilitate a fitting representation of this unique, rancorous, deeply spirited and utterly beautiful thing.

"You can keep your 808 States and your Happy Mondays, for a Manchester live experience it's Honeyfeet for me" – Dave Ruffmouth, introducing the band at Grillstock 2013

With the voice of sean nos singer Rioghnach Connolly ("Seldom has conspicuous greatness been more accessible" City Life) the folk-blues dance group involves members of Walk, Driver Drive Faster, Liz Green's backing band and others. The equal contributions of this broad variety of artists is undoubtedly what makes this a rare and spectacular whole.

[Video](#)

[Soundcloud](#)

[Website](#)



RIOGHNACH CONNOLLY AND ELLIS DAVIES



Rioghnach Connolly and Ellis Davies are a force of musical nature. Taking the stage in the roles of a married couple, they combine top-quality musicianship with a stage act which is deeply charming and richly comedic. Rioghnach sings with breathtaking beauty, power and agility, and plays a sassy flute, while Ellis holds it down on the guitar and sings some unlikely backing vocals. Combining original compositions with traditional folk and blues, it's always a memorable show with Rioghnach and Ellis.

[Video](#)

[Website](#)

WHISKEY MOON FACE



Whiskey Moon Face are Louisa Jones (singer songwriter, accordionist and double bassist), Ewan Bleach (clarinet, saxophone and pianist), Dakota Jim (double bassist, singer songwriter, accordionist). They also play with violinists Mirabelle Gillis and Ali Caplain, drummers John Blease and Lizzie Excel, banjo player Sam Bailey, trumpeter Magic Mike Henry and trombonist Anton Wunderlich.

“Roots-jazz trio whose influences and experiences encompass Ireland, India and god-knows-where. Clarinet, accordion, double bass and (terrific) vocals on intoxicating and darkly humorous vignettes which carry the promise of the best night out in bohemian London imaginable.”

[Video](#)
[Soundcloud](#)
[Website](#)

THEO BARD

Inspired songwriter and live music obsessive, Theo Bard is to be found in all the most beautiful, unusual and intimate music spots across the UK, singing his own unique brand of urban folk. His expert picking on the guitar, bold beats and uplifting lyrics combine to make a sound that is both timeless and contemporary, reflecting the diversity of his beloved London.

Classically trained from the age of four on violin, Theo has also studied folk singing and guitar, African percussion, electric bass and music production.

He's also the man behind the legendary Woodburner nights that bring together the wealth of talent in London's acoustic music scene in some of the most beautiful venues Hackney has to offer.

[Video](#)
[Soundcloud](#)
[Website](#)



DR BLUEGRASS AND THE ILLBILLY 8



Foot stompin', thigh slappin' bluegrass from the deep south (of England). Available for hire for hoedowns, shindigs, hootenannys and barn dances.

[Video](#)
[Soundcloud](#)
[Website](#)

NUALA HONAN



28-year-old guitarist/singer/songwriter and Bristol based Nuala Honan, is a soulful woman with a knack for writing compelling and relevant songs. She calls her style country, but if we were in America, she'd probably call it folk. Whatever happened to the Singer/Songwriter section in record stores?

"She is an amazing guitarist. You don't always notice when you watch her perform, because she's got this voice that makes you feel like the bottom of your spine is melting and your toes are dipped in honey, and it's kind of inveigling, but she is also a kick-ass musician and composer." Sally Jenkinson, for Folly

[Video](#)
[Soundcloud](#)
[Website](#)

THE TURBANS

The Turbans is an international musical collective bringing together exciting traditional near-eastern and eastern-European styles and original compositions, to create a modern and energetic performance with reverence for its ancient roots.

Growing from the intertwining paths of many talented musicians travelling the world, this extraordinary project has grown in a few years from very humble beginnings, into a progressive name on the London music scene. It's members have gathered from countries such as Turkey, Bulgaria, Israel, Iran, Italy, Greece and England to perform in concerts and festivals around the UK, Turkey, India and Europe.

[Video](#)
[Soundcloud](#)
[Website](#)



CUT A SHINE



Cut A Shine are a London based troupe of traditional musicians, dynamic Ceilidh dancers and crazy callers determined to spread the word that the Hoe Down is a'happening. From Hoxton to Humber-side, from Amnesty to Bestival, Cut A Shine are putting ceilidh dance back on the map – whether at sell out London Ceilidh Dances or Barn Dances at top summer festivals. This "Anarchic Hillbilly Barn Dancing Squad" host a rip-roaring, thigh-slapping, pavement-stomping, exhilarating, heart thumping, blood pumping barn dance and Ceilidh show. Whilst the banjo and the fiddle set the tone, the callers instruct any audience through do-si-do's and strip the willows, until all are involved!

[Video](#)
[Website](#)

STOMPIN' DAVE ALLEN



Dave performs bluegrass, blues, country, folk, rock n roll, old-time, etc. He sings and plays guitar, banjo, fiddle, harmonica, piano and tap dances in an old-time flatfooting style often whilst playing an instrument and singing.

Dave's repertoire includes songs and instrumental music ranging from traditional to vintage covers and originals. Performances are often a varied mix of material but he is equally capable of presenting whole performances in one genre.

[Video](#)

[Website](#)

LATIN QUARTER

GYPSY BUTTER



Rumba Flamenco meets Gypsy swing and Latin rhythms
Gypsy Butter are an eclectic mix of flamenco, jazz, Latin, and gypsy music with upbeat and contagious rhythms that are guaranteed to get the crowd jumping. Expect powerful sax and driving guitar riffs complemented by whimsical vocals, accordion, and big Cuban bass lines.

[Video](#)
[Soundcloud](#)
[Website](#)

BALDO VERDÚ Y SU TONTO MALEMBE

Latin Funk & Fusion with Afro-Venezuelan roots
Led by its guitarist and singer Baldo Verdú, explores the sounds of Rock music in combination with Latin American genres such as Cumbia, Guaracha, Tambor and Latin Funk; as the result of a life-long experience among these music expressions, thanks to the participation in major Latin bands as La Parranda de Lilliam, Conjunto Papa Upa and Fumaça Preta; in parallel with a continuous experience in the Rock scene.

Baldo Verdú y su Tonto Malembe sounds of afro venezuelan and afro-caribbean rhythms. Baldo Verdú's guitar adds to the ensemble the funky vibe. The original songs are mainly sung in spanish, a few in english. All of them absorbing the audience into a world of energy, afro - latin folklore and exuberance.

[Video](#)
[Twitter](#)
[Website](#)



COLOMBOLOCO



Cabaret-esque Gypsy Folk & Latin Roots
Colomboloco combine gypsy-folk inspired Italian and Spanish cabaret sounds with Latin roots and diverse musical talents. Five talented and enthusiastic musicians from Italy and Spain whose styles blend together to create a powerful and uplifting sound that is guaranteed to electrify a room and get everyone on the dance floor. The sound originates from the musicians' classical music background combined with joyous Gypsy and Ska beats. Providing a highly theatrical show in which the audience feels connected to the performance in a creative and intimate way, and an integral part of the experience.

[Video](#)
[Soundcloud](#)
[Website](#)

HOLLY HOLDEN



Tropical soul

Holly's long-term musical links with Cuba and the wider Caribbean have left their mark on her sound. Her bilingual pop combines catchy, soulful melodies and foot-tapping, tropical beats.

[Video](#)

[Soundcloud](#)

ANIMANZ

Afro-Latin Hip Hop Funk Groove

Born into captivity, Animanz rattled, scratched, bit and tore until during 2013 they developed an awareness of what lay beyond the caged confines of London Zoo. Described as HipFunkAfro-LatinHop, an Animanz show is a safari through the dense urban jungle into a myotropic world of groove, energy & exhilaration. Combined with fellow animalia, The Herbivores, these beasts have been running amock and are on a stage at a venue near you. Following their 'No Future 7" about to unleash their second release in early 2015.

[Video](#)
[Soundcloud](#)



LET DRUM BEAT



All female Afro-Brazilian beats with a modern twist.

Let Drum Beat are female musicians who've gathered their percussion together, combining their Afro-Latin-Brazilian heritage and musical traditions to create original pieces led by a wide diversity of acoustic sounds from bells to heavy drums, energetic and paced rhythms, vocal melodies, bass lines and spontaneous dance and video projections.

[Video](#)

[Website](#)

DENDE



Tropical roots big band with Cumbia, to Calypso, Reggae, Ska and Brazilian rhythms Dende are a Brighton based nine piece band playing a unique and eclectic mix of tunes with a firm rooting in Afro-Latin styles: Chicha, Cumbia, Reggae, Ska, Dub, Psychedelic country, Brazilian, Drum and Bass, Afro-everything. The name DENDE comes from an Afro-Brazilian expression which means if you have 'Dende' you have 'soul' or 'a strong spirit', and the these guys have that in bucket loads.

[Video](#)
[Website](#)

DANDALUZ

Energetic new fusion of Spanish Rumba & Flamenco with Salsa, Pachanga and Bossa Nova. Heralding from Sevilla, Cartagena (Chile) and London they easily bring together the melodies and rhythms of Rumba, Pachanga, Flamenco, Salsa and Bossa Nova. Tight musicians and strong lyricists with an infectious style and traditional vibes that keep crowds dancing all through the night.

[Video](#)
[Soundcloud](#)



CABLE STREET COLLECTIVE



Big band stomping African, Reggae and Latin influences tied together with the South African Kwela spirit!
Combining African, Reggae and Blues influences with conscious lyrics, an ear for a catchy tune and an addictive beat, Cable Street Collective make happy tropical tunes that'll keep you frolicking through the night that'll keep you frolicking through the night. We'd say the South African Kwela band influence is the strongest, although they've also been said to carry sounds of The Beta Band and Happy Mondays!

[Video](#)
[Website](#)

MALPHINO

Colombian Cumbia and Brazilian Forró mashed up with exotica and Italian film score influences. Malphino play a heady mix of Latin American music - from Brazilian Forró to Colombian Cumbia via a variety of tropical rhythms and a nod of the hat to Italian film score. While based in London, members of Malphino hail from all corners of the world (including Japan, Malaysia, Réunion island and the Philippines). The band is a conceptual music project based around an imaginary island called 'Malphino' and the band aims for the music to transport the audience to this beautiful island culture where everyone is equal and everything is good.

[Video](#)



AFRICAN ROOTMASTER



FOFOULAH



The London-based quintet Fofoulah (meaning “it’s there” in Wolof) was formed in 2011 and features Tom Challenger (Red Snapper) on saxophone and keyboards, Phil Stevenson (Iness Mezel) on guitar, Johnny Brierley (Outhouse Ruhabi) on bass, Dave Smith (Robert Plant’s Sensational Space Shifters) on drums, and Kaw Secka (Irok) on Sabar drums. With the rhythms of the Sabar drums - a traditional form of Wolof drumming from Gambia and Senegal – at its heart, Fofoulah’s music has evolved into an inspired cosmopolitan mélange that also incorporates elements of electronic music, dub, improvisation and afro-rock. Like the complex city they live in, their music is shaped and lifted by diverse sound-worlds and cultures.

[Video](#)

[Soundcloud](#)

[Website](#)

LONDON AFROBEAT COLLECTIVE

Hypnotic grooves, pounding rhythms and soaring melodies. LAC’s take on Fela’s original blueprint remains traditional but includes modern injections of raw funk, latin and rock, all glued together by bold brass and dancefloor sweat. With a catalogue of new material ready for release, the rise of LAC looks unstoppable – you won’t be able to resist them...

[Video](#)
[Soundcloud](#)
[Website](#)



NAMVULA



Creating an intrepid new world where folk and urban traditions of her Zambian homeland blend with her Scottish roots and London’s vibrant eclectic music scene, Namvula crosses boundaries with a refreshing honesty and evocative lyricism, transporting listeners into different worlds whilst staying firmly rooted in African soil. Namvula has collaborated and shared the stage with artists including legendary South African trumpeter Hugh Masekela, sitarist Anoushka Shankar, and local Zambian singing legend Maureen Lilanda. She is backed by a stellar band of some of the UK’s most respected African and jazz musicians, including Mercury-nominated bassist Liran Donin and saxophonist Chris Williams, percussionist Mamadou Sarr (Baaba Maal, Angélique Kidjo), and guitarist Jack Ross (John Surman, Cerys Matthews).

[Video](#)

[Soundcloud](#)

[Website](#)

NUBIYAN TWIST



Future soul, jazz + afrobeat

“A beautiful blend of groovy dub with uplifting horns and soulful female vocals”

The Guardian

Nubiyán Twist are spreading love across the UK with their monumental 12-piece fusion of soul, jazz, dub, hiphop and afrobeat. Infectiously danceable grooves, punchy arrangements, a giant horn sound, upbeat Brazilian raps, turntablism, futuristic textures + dub effects: all tempered by the sultry, soulful delivery of lead singer Nubiya Brandon.

A subtly captivating presence on stage, she blends a melodic tone and presence reminiscent of the jazz greats of the 40s/50s with a rap style firmly rooted in the golden era of hip hop, a blend of laidback delivery and abstract lyricism. Future soul, jazz + afrobeat

[Video](#)

[Soundcloud](#)

[Website](#)

AFRIQUOI

Live African Dance music.

“Yo this tune is not exactly up my street... it's like, in my flat, in my kitchen and in my living room, just groovin n doin its thing bruv!!!!” DJ Zhao, Ngoma Sound

Live African dance music, fusing Congolese guitar + Gambian kora virtuosity with UK electronic sensibilities to create captivating, beautiful, dancefloor- friendly new music for a new generation of world music fans with one foot in the clubs.

Afriquoi are an underground sensation, bringing an uplifting fusion of African music and live electronics. The masterful 5-piece live show combines Gambian kora, Congolese guitar + Mandinka percussion styles with electronic music drawing on house, soca, hiphop, soul + jungle to create something entirely unique.

[Video](#)

[Soundcloud](#)

[Website](#)



JALLYKEBBA SUSSO AND MANDING SABU



Manding Sabu: A truly international band, made up of a 7-strong core of hyper-talented African, European and British musicians, Jallykebbá Susso's Manding Sabu combine the history-rich, melodious sound of the Mandinka kora (West African harp) with powerful party-smashing grooves drawing on reggae, afrobeat, rock, funk and blues.

Jallykebbá Susso: In West Africa, a griot combines the roles of musician, storyteller, historian, archivist, diplomat and flatterer. You can only be born a griot, never became one. Jally Keba Susso comes from a very long line of Manding griots from The Gambia. He started playing the kora, the emblematic instrument of the griots at the age of seven, learning it's delicate flowing intricacies from his father and older brothers.

[Video](#)

[Soundcloud](#)

[Website](#)

ZONG ZING ALL STARS



Zong Zing plays an up lifting dance music called Cavacha, relying as it does ,upon sweet vocal harmonies, fiery guitar lines,driving percussion and wicked (sometimes best described as outrageous) onstage dance routines. Cavacha is the root beat from DRC Congo which created Soukous from Congo, Makosa from Cameroon and Coupez decallez from Ivory Coast.

Zong Zing All Star have successfully made the world audience appreciate Cavacha beat, where they are using minor, major and pentatonic scale or chord on top of Cavacha beat, this way of composing has changed the way Soukous is play by using Majors scale and chords only.Zong Zing All Star are also using Franco and Doctor Nico playing style on guitar which you do not hear anymore from African guitarist or band. Zong zing all star is a multi African music where you can here some Congolese pigmies influence and Arabic African influence music as well. Nobody has never resist to dance when Zong zing all star plays, unless your doctor has instructed you to do.

[Video](#)

[Website](#)

UNITED VIBRATIONS

Future afro jazz

“...the best group I’ve seen in this country since . . . ever.... United Vibrations are genuinely the most important band to come out of the UK since the big rock bands of the 60’s, 70’s and 80’s.”
Daniel Crosby – Jazz Reloaded

United Vibrations are a four-piece band based in southeast London, bringing their unique style of 12Tone, Mulatto, Afro-Punk and Jazz-fusion music, influenced by Fela Kuti and Sun Ra, to a global audience. The band consists of the Dayes brothers and Wayne Francis.

United Vibrations have played alongside Seun Kuti, Tony Allen, Soothsayers, Electric Jalaba, Afriquoi, the Destroyers and the Resonators, as well as working with Aloe Blacc and recording at Maida Vale Studios with Gilles Peterson. Having released their debut album, ‘Galaxies Not Ghettos’ as well as ‘Ra!’, ‘No Space No Time’, ‘London Bridge’ & ‘We Never Die EP’, they are set to drop their second album in early 2015. Recently presented with the Willem Wodka 2013 Award – Grounds, Rotterdam and the Emerging Excellence Award 2013 – Help Musicians UK.

[Video](#)

[Soundcloud](#)

[Website](#)



BRONZE HEAD



BronzeHead is a 10-piece group from London, formed in 2010 to make new music inspired by the raw & heavy funk rhythms of 1970's West Africa. During this era, bands in countries like Nigeria, Ghana & Benin mixed traditional African rhythms together with funk & soul to form thrilling new genres such as Afrobeat, Afrofunk & Highlife. These sounds have incited dancefloor chaos for decades, and at the very core of BronzeHead is the desire to do just that. Representing 5 different nationalities and with past musical experience in rock, reggae, hip hop, jazz, ska, and electronic, BronzeHead's all-original interpretation of Afrobeat is unique and versatile, informed by our diverse cultural backgrounds and grounded in our daily experiences and challenges in London.

[Video](#)

[Soundcloud](#)

[Website](#)

ELECTRIC JALABA

Born as a collaboration between Soundspecies live band and Moroccan Gnawa master musician Simo Lagnawi, the leading UK player of the Guembri: a traditional lute-like stringed instrument made from camel skin they paraded at various festivals and venues over the summer. The music taps into Simos deep, often mesmerizing traditional Gnawa music from Morocco and the band's own multi-faceted musical background. It's an original and uncontrived fusion of musical influences with a nod to the worlds of jazz, techno, funk, psychedelic rock and Desert blues.

[Video](#)

[Soundcloud](#)

[Website](#)



YAABA FUNK



The core members of Yaaba Funk met on the south London African scene in the late 1990s when, as well as studying African music, many wild nights were spent jamming together at house parties - drumming, dancing and djing til dawn.

The name Yaaba Funk comes from an album called Yaba Funk Roots, the only album ever released outside of Africa by Captain Yaba, a musician from northern Ghana and exponent of the 2-string 'guitar' called the koliko. The band has gigged extensively around London and the UK, building up a loyal fan base with their exuberant live shows and have also performed in Europe and Africa.

[Video](#)

[Soundcloud](#)

[Website](#)

NAHINI DOUMBIA + SANKOULEKAN



The music mixes balafons, percussions and singing. It resonates with the sensual, energetic and powerful rhythms drawn from the modern sounds of West Africa and Mandinka traditions. The tracks are all original compositions with their own take on peace, reconciliation, personal dignity and African identity. Nahini formed his group 'Sankoulekan' in 2010, gathering a bunch of amazing UK-based African musicians from The Gambia, Senegal, Guinea, Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast as well as gifted British percussionists. Sankoulekan has since performed at numerous events including the Eid festival in Trafalgar Square, Mali Independence day, Notting Hill Carnival, International Women Day parade, during Black History month at various locations across London and at the School of Oriental and African Studies. Nahini has toured the UK with Master Drummers, a group of talented master percussionists from across Africa and The Vocal Ensemble of Africa, backing-up six African singers from six different African countries that define what African Culture is today. Nahini Doumbia is at the early stage of a promising career. He belongs to a new generation of young Africans who cultivate new ideas and aims to establish and share African cultural identity with audiences around the world.

[Video](#)

THE BEST FROM AFRICA



KASAI MASAI



After appearances at WOMAD, Sarawak Rainforest Festival Malaysia and El Poble Espanyol Barcelona, Kasai Masai are beautifully upbeat performers and absolute Soukous kings. Individually these musicians have played with some of the best African artists, including Madiata, Defao, Langa Langa All Stars, Franco & TP OK Jazz and Wenge Musica. Nickens has also played with Quartier Latin of Koffi Olomide, recorded with Papa Wemba, Zaiko Lang Langa and he is currently playing with the world famous Kanda Bongo Man.

If you've seen these Soukous Kings before then you'll be fully aware of their dance-inducing Congolese beats. If not, it's about time you took a plunge in their music pool.

[Video](#)
[Soundcloud](#)
[Website](#)

JO N'GALA

Long ago, in the mists of time, there came from Ancient Egypt a Blue Man. He was a mystic, a prophet, a savant. He walked among the people and brought with him a message of brotherhood and humanity which became the origin of the "spirit of Bantu".

Jo N'GALA calls his music Bantu Blues and the message expressed therein, the Light of the Blue. He believes that as man has travelled to the far corners of the earth from that ancient world, he took with him the spirit of Bantu and it can be heard in many forms of indigenous music particularly in rhythm and beat. Therefore, anyone seeking a common identity with all other people around a sometimes hostile world can find it through Bantu Blues and Jo N'GALA, the modern Blue Man.

[Video](#)
[Soundcloud](#)
[Website](#)



YAYE DIB SABAR



Under the direction of Diene 'Waaw Waaw' Sagna, Yaye Dib Sabar is a West African drum and dance company based in London, which aims to showcase the diversity and beauty of West African cultures to the world. The 'Sabar', a traditional drum of the Wolof people of Senegal is usually played with one hand and a stick. Wolof master percussionists use complex, rapid and syncopated rhythms; some playing accompanying rhythms whilst others do it solo. These rhythms are additionally expressed by Sabar dancers, which is a celebratory dance gestured through lively body swings, sharp leg juts, hip thrusts and the symbolic and spirited 5-step jump.

[Video](#)

[Website](#)

ROUGH SCIENCE

A big melting pot of sounds scientifically blended together to make a musical explosion; from Indie Rock to Ska with very unique elements of their own. ROUGH SCIENCE have been gigging a lot in the London underground music scene always impressing fans and crowd from Jazz Café to Bermondsey Festival

[Video](#)

[Soundcloud](#)

[Website](#)



ABDOULAYE SAMB



Minnjaraby is a band founded in 2001 by Abdoulaye Samb, guitarist singer composer from Senegal. His original music is inspired by Fula and Mandinka cultures among many others. The name of the band means “The love of mixing”, which expresses the richness of senegalese traditions and ethnies, the beauty in them getting together, as well as an open-minded approach to all cultures and people and bridging and promoting them. The music has grown from Abdulaye’s travels, collaborations and researches in Africa and Europe.

[Video](#)
[Soundcloud](#)
[Website](#)

KOKO KAYINDA AND THE CONGO ALLSTARS

Koko is an outstanding drummer and vocalist from Democratic Republic of Congo. He plays Djembe and congas and is the last surviving congas player from the first generation of Congolese music.

After developing his musical skills Koko joined several bands in his homeland and toured different African countries.

The musicians and bands he joined with at that time included Docteur Nico, Papa Noel and Le Festival de Maquisards of Sam Mangwana and Givano.

[Video](#)



SONA JOBARTEH



Sona Jobarteh is the first female Kora virtuoso to come from a West African Griot family. Breaking away from tradition, she is a modern day pioneer in an ancient, male-dominated hereditary tradition that has been exclusively handed down from father to son for the past seven centuries.

The Kora is a 21 stringed African harp, and is one of the most important instruments belonging to the Manding peoples of West Africa. It can be found in Gambia, Senegal, Mali, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau. The kora, along with a handful of other instruments, belongs exclusively to the griot families of west Africa. Only those who are born into one of these families have the exclusive right to take up these instruments professionally. Sona, who was born into one of the five principal West African Griot families, has become the first in her long family line to break from tradition by taking up this instrument professionally as a female.

[Video](#)
[Website](#)

NATTY



“Soul-Reggae crossover sensation” The Times. With his urban blend of Roots-reggae, soulful pop and a variety of African sounds. Natty is a well-respected songwriter and festival favourite across the world including Japan, where he had a number 1 hit with the single ‘Badman’. Other Live performance highlights include touring with Ziggy Marley around USA, an unauthorised student show in front of thousands in Khartoum, Sudan. Playing at the U.N building on world humanitarian day (NYC, 11/08/2012) etc.. TV Highlights include performing on Later with Jools Holland and The BBC Electric Proms. Collaborations include work with Nitin Sawhney, Roots Manuva, Tony Allen, Busy Signal etc. A gifted musician, poet and producer, Natty’s soulful melodies, acoustic guitar and conscious lyrics make him an artist not to be missed. 2015 will see the release of Natty’s sophomore album.

[Video](#)
[Soundcloud](#)
[Website](#)

SUBAJAH

Originally from Martinique, Subajah is an artist whose musicality is rich, inspiring and unique in its genre. He has developed a soulful, spiritual and poetical deep reggae roots sound influenced by the oral tradition, melodies and rhythms of Africa and the Caribbean. Fuelled by his passion for music, Subajah moved to London in 2007, where he has been evolving in the reggae scene to become one of the most sought after upcoming artists. He has, amongst others, performed with artists such as Aswad, Culture, Dawn Penn, Natty, Tippa Irie, YT, Dre Island and Young warrior.

[Video](#)
[Soundcloud](#)
[Website](#)



JJSOULX



Singer/songwriter JJ Soulx flows soulfully and poetically, with lyrically conscious music and a tone that expresses great passion. JJ Soulx (silent x) is a natural and had been receiving generous airplay on various mainstream stations including BBC Radio London & BBC 1Xtra from an early age.

Spending her early years surrounded by the sounds of jazz, soul and gospel, she grasped a great feel for music. JJ has developed a distinct sound with heartfelt music that represents her roots.

[Video](#)
[Soundcloud](#)
[Website](#)

IYA KNEEL AND IJAH



[Video](#)

Iya kneel grew up in Jamaica where his interest in music was evoked by the drums and chants of the Nyabinghi. As an artist and musician nurtured in Rastafari and guided by the wisdom of his elders he chants a very spiritual form of Reggae. His repertoire ranges from spoken word, to rap and singing, he has also mastered the art of the burru/akete drumming style, He uses his skills to create music that heals the soul and guides his audience's to a place of joy, peace and reflection.

I Jah is a young Roots Reggae vocalist who was raised in the Rastafarian faith. Growing up in a time in London where knife, gun crime and violence were on a rise; he became inspired to spread a positive message. I Jah has been performing for many years now supporting some of the top names in Reggae and his electric and passionate performances continue to inspire and uplift all generations. Providing the perfect balance to Iya kneels mystical tones.

RU1 FAM

RU1 FAM are a conscious Hip Hop collective promoting the message of love, peace, unity and having fun, all within a context of Mali/Mandinka drum rhythms. The collective present a unique experience of drums and voices. backed by African drum group Jembe Explosion, which RU1 FAM members are also a part of, in total there are 8 members onstage for this powerful performance. Members of the collective are also part of Asheber and the Afrikan Revolution. collaborations include work with Natty, The Thirst, Akala, Logic, Jeru the Damaja and Afrikan Bambatta/ Zulu NAtion

[Video](#)
[Website](#)



NATIVE SUN



Native Sun is a London based duo consisting of bilingual rapper Mohammed Yahya, born in Mozambique , South East Africa and singer-song writer Sarina Leah born in London with Caribbean roots.

Joining forces in 2010 Native Sun was born fusing Hip Hop and African rhythms with the aim of promoting a positive message of Universal Peace, Equality, Social Justice and Environmental Change.

[Video](#)
[Soundcloud](#)
[Website](#)

DOUG SURE



Doug Sure is a singer songwriter from South London dedicated to creating stories through song that people can take through life. Soul, blues, reggae and folk tones can be found in Doug's powerful voice and he ever engrosses crowds with enigmatic guitar playing. Doug's solo/acoustic performances are always original as he truly connects with each audience he encounters, allowing them to inspire his sound to greater heights.

[Video](#)

[Soundcloud](#)

ASHEBER & THE AFRIKAN REVOLUTION

The Afrikan Revolution is a super group led by multi-talented musician and educator – Niles 'Asheber' Hailstones, featuring a collective of the most innovative and influential grassroots musicians and teachers ever gathered together in the UK. The Band in its present form started in 2007, but has its roots in a long history, steeped in the tradition and the works of its members and the journey of Afrikan music in the Diaspora They present a revolutionary new progression and movement in the development of Afrikan music, which is fuelled by the global 'Afrikan Renaissance Movement' and the present universal raising of consciousness. The band brings an eclectic yet seamless mixture of conscious Afrikan, Reggae, Jazz, Soul, Blues and Spoken Word with a message.



[Video](#)
[Website](#)

DESERT REMIX



KARAMA



Karama is an exciting London-based band, led by Moroccan Oud player Soufian Saihi. His compositions are based around oud, clarinet, double bass and percussion. Finding inspiration from the beautiful ecstatic Gnawa, North African and Arabic classical music as well as the diverse sounds of London streets during his busking experience, the music wanders brilliantly through diverse sonic landscapes that range from Tinariwen to Alice Coltrane, superbly funky and beautifully melodic. With members from Venezuela, Spain, Japan, Morocco and the UK, Karama is an utterly unique experience.

[Video](#)
[Website](#)

DILA V AND THE ODD BEATS

Multi National Gypsy Eastern Folk Girl Power! Dila Vardar & The Oddbeats weave haunting waves of melodious Turkish folk, Balkan rhythms and Rebetiko making for an enchanting blend of ancient Eastern sounds .. If you have been confused about strange time signatures, these guys will teach you how to dance to them in no time..

[Video](#)
[Soundcloud](#)
[Website](#)



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