

AWALÉ



“Begg repeated listening” – Jane Cornwell (Songlines, issue 85).

“Bringing a distinctive eastern take on afrobeat.” – Lopa Kothari (World on 3, BBC3).

“Awalé play some seriously heavy Afro-Latin-Gypsy Funk.... Their formula of funky guitar riffs, Afro-Cuban percussion, super tight horns, and searing female vocals make for a mind-blowing party blend.” Cal Jader (DJ, Movimientos).

“Chameleon-like in their flexibility, sidestepping from free jazz sax solos to tight groovy funk guitar lines and back with ease.” World Music Network.

Biography:

Awalé play Afro Gipsy Beat. Formed in London in 2009, the band is a reflection of London's multiculturalism. With members from Tunisia, Cuba, France, Slovakia and England, influences come in turn from Afrobeat, Balkan music, North African Amazigh music, Congolese Rhumba, Ethiopian Funk and Latin Jazz, blended in their unique style. Through their music they take the audience on a journey across continents celebrating diversity and hope for mutual understanding of different cultures. The name Awalé, meaning "love each other", comes from an ancient African game declined in hundreds of versions scattered around the world. Like the game, the music is played in turns and cycles of various length which echo themselves, sometimes very intricately and sometimes in unison. Heavily horn based, with the colour and excitement of 70's funk and with Balkan inspired odd time signatures and melodies.

Since 2009 Awalé have performed extensively in London and around the UK and in festivals such as Secret Garden Party or The Big Chill. The line-up of the band varies with members coming in and out and back again much like a collective. Up to thirty musicians have collaborated and played in Awalé So far, with a core band of seven musicians, and a live set of fifteen musicians for a BBC Maida Vale session recording, one of the highlights of 2012.

Their debut album Just Have To Grow was released on SaltFish Records on the 28th of May 2012. It was co-produced by Nick Page (Dub Colossus). Most of the album was recorded live in one room in two days at the Fishmarket Studios in North London. It features special guest appearances such as the critically acclaimed british flautist Gareth Lockrane on the track Ndeke, and Bulgarian singer songwriter Miroslav "Morski" Atanasov on Young River.

Bookings

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Links

**<http://www.awale.co.uk>
<http://www.soundcloud.com/awale>
<http://www.facebook.com/awalemusic>**

Personnel:

Thibaut Remy: From Montpellier, south of France, Thibaut Remy is a self taught guitarist influenced by blues, rock, jazz, malian, egyptian, gipsy music and funk. Since arriving in London in 2003 he has played with a wide range of musicians including Afla Sackey and Afrik Bawantu from Ghana , Mobo award nominee Eric Wainaina (Kenya) and recently featured on Gilles Peterson's record Havana Cultura.

Badiaa Bouhrizi: Coming from the Tunisian underground scene, Badiâa Bouhrizi blends jazz, reggae and electronic music with traditional Amazigh (native north african culture) influences in her vocals. She has performed in Tunisia, Morocco, France, Canada and England in various venues and festivals.

Joe Auckland: Since graduating from the Royal Academy of Music in 2001 Joe has led a varied and interesting career. He is in demand on both the Jazz and session scenes in London. He has recently recorded and toured with Madness, as well as Jazz artists Will Collier, Brigitte Beraha and Gwilym Simcock.

Kevin Toublant : Self-taught, he first began to play bass in Jam sessions and progressed onto playing festivals, international tours and studio sessions. He studied at the Music Conservatory, Rennes, France, whilst carrying on playing in different bands from jazz to rock, groove to experimental and funk cover bands. Collaborated with french side men such as : Xavier Geronimi (played for Alain Bashung), Frank Darcel (Etienne Daho), and toured internationally with several bands.

Ben Somers: Ben was brought up on country music and bluegrass by his father, musician Steve Somers. Ben plays saxes, double bass, sings and yodels. He has a great passion for pretty much every type of music. He leads his own quartet, his boogaloo and experimental retro funk group "The Fire-Eaters", co-leads bluegrass groups "The Rocky Mountain Boys" and "The Wagon Tales". He is part of "The Will Collier septet", The Gareth Lockrane big band, Earl Thomas and has played with such greats as Dr John and Roberto Pla.

Ben Reynolds: Ben has been a regular performer on the UK jazz circuit for the past 10 years, as well as abroad. He has played alongside Mark Lockheart, Jacqui Dankworth, Gwilym Simcock and award winning London based jazz band Fraud who won the 2008 BBC innovation award.

Jozef Berk: Jozef was born in Slovakia in Banska Bystrica, 1981 in a musical family. Jozef started to play percussion at the age of 15 . Since arriving in London in 2006, he developed his technique through Noda Oreste's (Ska Cubano) guidance and many percussion master classes and trips to Cuba. Jozef performed at several prestigious venues, including Royal Albert Hall, Royal Opera House, and festivals like Glastonbury, Bestival, Mawazine Rhythm Festival in Morocco, Haarlem Jazz, Paris Jazz festival, Natt Jazz fest in Norway, Ljubljana Jazz.







BBC Maida Vale session for BBC radio 3, World on 3 presented by Lopa Kothari.

FIRST BROADCAST: 12 Oct 2012.

Listen to the session:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00zv5b6>



