

March 2010
PRESS RELEASE

Baka Beyond
8pm Thursday 22 April 2010

A feast for the eyes and heart as well as the ears and feet

Baka Beyond perform at Aberystwyth Arts Centre on Thursday 22nd April, 8pm.

Musicians from 6 countries join together to play the most original live world fusion sound around.

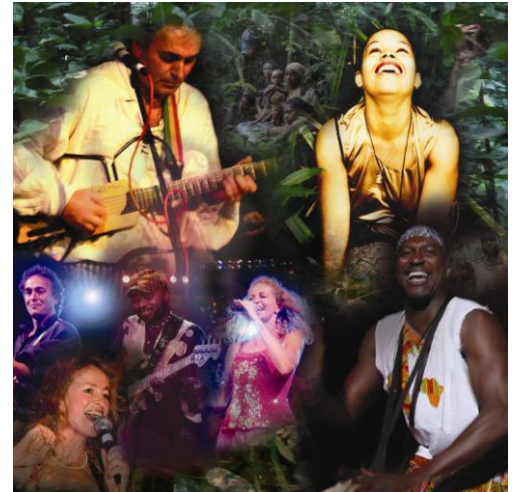
Baka Beyond was originally inspired by Martin Cradick & Su Hart's visits to the Baka Forest People in Cameroon. While there they played music with and recorded the Baka resulting in two albums, *Heart of the Forest* - field recordings of the traditional Baka music and - *Spirit of the Forest* - a mix of music written with & inspired by the Baka. The album *Spirit of the Forest* helped define the term "world music" and establish Baka Beyond as a pioneering force in world music.

From these beginnings, recorded in a bedroom studio and based on live jams recorded while living with the Baka Pygmies in the rainforests of South-East Cameroon, Baka Beyond has evolved into a multicultural, dynamic live stage show. "It was the amazing bird-like singing or yelli that first attracted me," says Su Hart, Baka Beyond's lead singer. "The women get together before the dawn to sing, enchant the animals of the forest and ensure that the men's hunting will be successful. Song and dance are used by the Baka for healing, for rituals, for keeping the community together and also for pure fun! We try to do the same in Baka Beyond."

Over the years the band has grown to include members from Brittany, Cameroon, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Ghana as well as Britain. Each musician brings their influence and talent to the music to create a unique spectacle honouring a lesson learned from the Baka people, "everyone to be listened to". The rhythms and melodies of the African players, every one an acknowledged virtuoso with a parallel career in their own right, meet with the Celtic traditions, ancient and modern, of the European musicians.

After all the work in putting together their latest album - 'Rhythm Tree' - Baka Beyond can't wait to get back on the road this spring: "We have such a good time on stage," says Su, "that we all really miss when we're not gigging. The audience always leaves uplifted and their positive feedback always lifts us up." "We were bubbling!" says Ayodele Scott, Sierra Leonean percussionist, after a show. Baka Beyond have consolidated their live show into a tight spectacle of music, song and dance, overflowing with fun and exuberance.

Canolfan y Celfyddydau
Aberystwyth Arts Centre



Tickets for this performance are £12 (£11) and can be booked by contacting the Arts Centre Box Office on 01970 62 32 32 or online at www.aber.ac.uk/artscentre

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Notes to editors:

Further information is available from Rachel Taylor on 01970 622894 email rst@aber.ac.uk

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Aberystwyth Arts Centre *Canolfan y Celfyddydau Aberystwyth*

Further Aberystwyth Arts Centre press releases can be found at

www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk/press.shtml.