**ALPACAS COLLECTIVE BIO:**  
  
Belgian 11-piece global groove ensemble **Alpacas Collective** takes you on a trip from Lagos to Addis Ababa, from Augusta, Georgia to New Orleans, and from Delhi to sci-fi worlds far beyond our solar system, bringing it all back home in a unique set of original songs.

The band draws inspiration from **James Brown**, **Fela Kuti**, **Mulatu Astatke**, **The Meters**, **Sun Ra**, **Ravi Shankar**, **The Heliocentrics**, ...and many others. Like their great examples, the grooves are laced with cutting horn lines and rousing percussion breaks. Funk is the basis, flavored with afro, jazz, boogaloo, soul and Eastern vibes.

**Alpacas Collective** has shared the stage with renowned acts as **Mulatu Astatke**, **The Budos Band**, **Lefties Soul Connection**, **Cody Chesnutt**, **Quantic Soul Orchestra**, **The Poets and Rhythm** and more.

The band found their voice and soul on their well-received debut album ***Seven Wisdoms of Plutonia*** released in October 2022, a tasty blend of smells and musical spices that included 60s and 70s Ethiopian styles and compositions, afrobeat and US style funk.

One year on, the ensemble is excited to release the second collection of **Alpacas**tunes. From the adventurous spaces of Plutonia, from where **Alpacas Collective** emerged, this gang of fanatic music lovers continue their trip through new places with new friends on the new album ***Big Words***.

**Media quotes:**

*"Killer psychedelic jam blending afro sitar funk and ethio jazz sounds! Tip!"* - Music Mania Records (BE)

*"While “Seven Wisdoms of Plutonia” continues a recent trend of bringing African flavours to jazz-funk groove, the enthusiasm in the performances makes this an exceptional and enjoyable example of that approach."* - UK Vibe (UK)

*"A mad batch of funky grooves, with a world's worth of influences in the mix – elements of African, Indian, and other styles – all wrapped around some mighty funky instrumentation at the core!"* - Dusty Groove (US)

*"Alpacas Collective sounds really impressive.....a group of musicians who made their mark somewhere in a shadow world that mere mortals like us don't know about."* - Da Music (Belgium)

*"I think you are able to catch that afro/ethiojazz sound but not only play it but give something yours to this music."* - Izvorista Radio (Croatia)

*"Seven Wisdoms of Plutonia' bestows some wonderful moments throughout the album and with great excitement we'll await the collective's next adventure, no doubt, to even further and great magical lands."* - Blue In Green Radio (UK)

**Alpacas Collective** are:

Stan Hennes  - drums | Frederik Kühn - percussion | Steve Vandervoort - bass | Robby Swiggers - guitar & vocals | Jeroen Ollevier - keys | Alexander Dingens - alto & tenor saxophone | Marc Jans - baritone saxophone &  trombone | Sander Vos - percussion & xylophone | Hans van Scharen - baritone, alto & tenor saxophone | Jérome Swevers - flute, trumpet | Joël Van Roode - sitar

**Guest musicians:**

Neg Madnick - vocals (Movéfèzè) | Zouratié Koné - ngoni (Boyoma) | Geert Claes - trumpet (What Could I Do) | Alain Louie - vocals (Big Words)