



Kinetika Bloco
Friends & Family

Be our #BFF

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At **Kinetika Bloco**, we support young people to progress from absolute beginners to successful professional musicians and dancers.

We do this by providing a space for them to discover their creativity and make something amazing together at our Summer Schools, creative workshops and large-scale public performances.

Our members have gone on to become rising stars of the UK music scene, playing in acclaimed bands like Mercury-nominated *Sons of Kemet* and performing with the likes of *Wynton Marsalis*, *Kano* and *Solange Knowles*.

Join Bloco Friends and Family today and support a new generation of young musicians and dancers. You'll be first in line, with exclusive invitations and all the latest news from our young people.

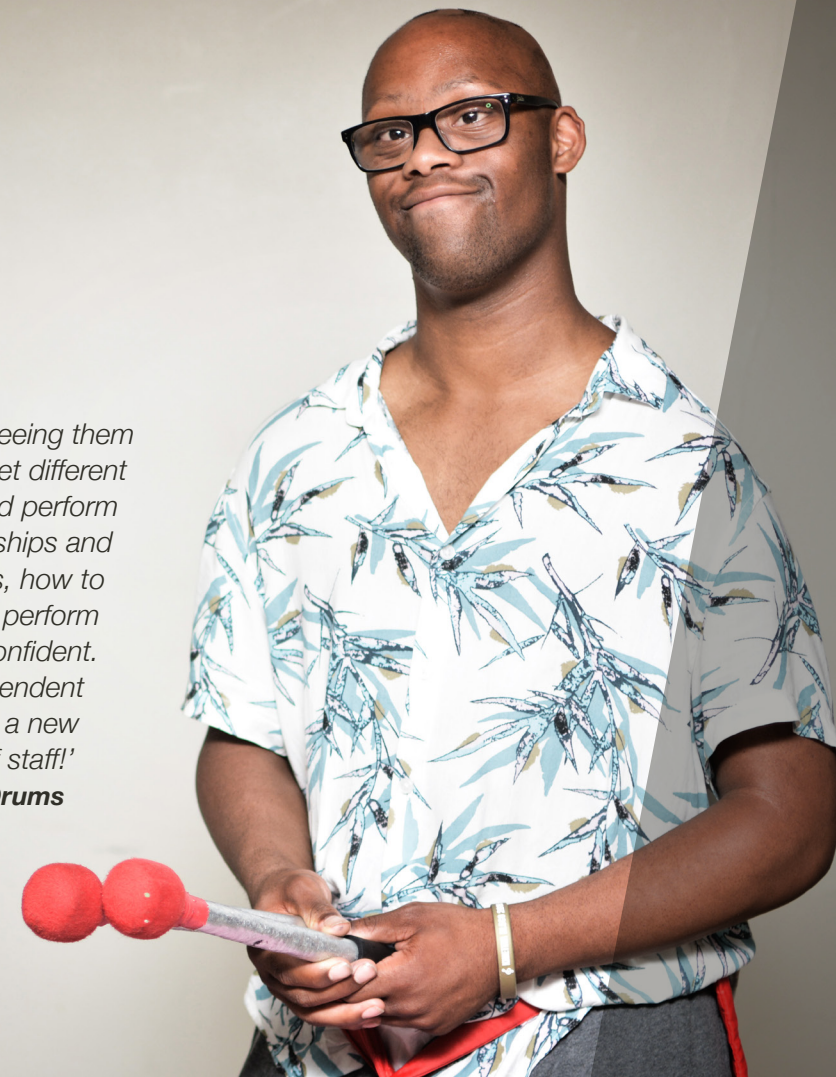


'Having joined Kinetika Bloco in 2010, it put me on the right path in life, by surrounding me with talented and influential people. Having a place like Bloco allowed me to avoid the path that a lot of people in my school and area were going down. The environment that exists in Bloco allowed me to foster my love for music. Our founder, Mat fox, always pushed me to play piano when I didn't really have faith in my abilities. This treatment is trademark for everyone in Bloco, we encourage everyone to keep having a go. This upbringing has shaped who I am as a person and what I do. It wouldn't have been possible without Kinetika Bloco.'

Dominic, 21, Drums, Piano, Keys, Flute

'I joined Bloco four years ago after seeing them perform at my school. I wanted to meet different people, learn to play an instrument and perform in concerts. I have gained lots of friendships and I've also learnt some new dance moves, how to play the drums and how to work and perform in a team. Bloco has made me more confident. Most importantly, I am now an independent traveller. In the future I want to learn a new instrument and become a member of staff!'

Shomari, 20, Drums





'I joined three years ago for the first ever Junior Summer School. I am now one of the trumpeters in the main Bloco. I've gained friendship, confidence, jazz skills... I have learned how to play different genres of music and memorise new pieces quickly. To me, Bloco is an inclusive community where things like grades and backgrounds don't matter; it's about music being for everyone. Without Bloco, I wouldn't have had the chance to perform for the Heads of Commonwealth at Buckingham Palace, play at Notting Hill Carnival or travel to Norway to perform for the King and Queen! I'm not sure what I want to do in the future yet, but I'm thinking I'd like to work in arts management.'

Hattie, 14, Trumpet

'I joined at 14 and had never danced carnival before. I originally joined playing flute but I moved to dance pretty quickly. It's the first time I had got into Brazilian and African dance - it blew my mind. Bloco has done so much for me. I've gone on to teach and do a leadership course.'

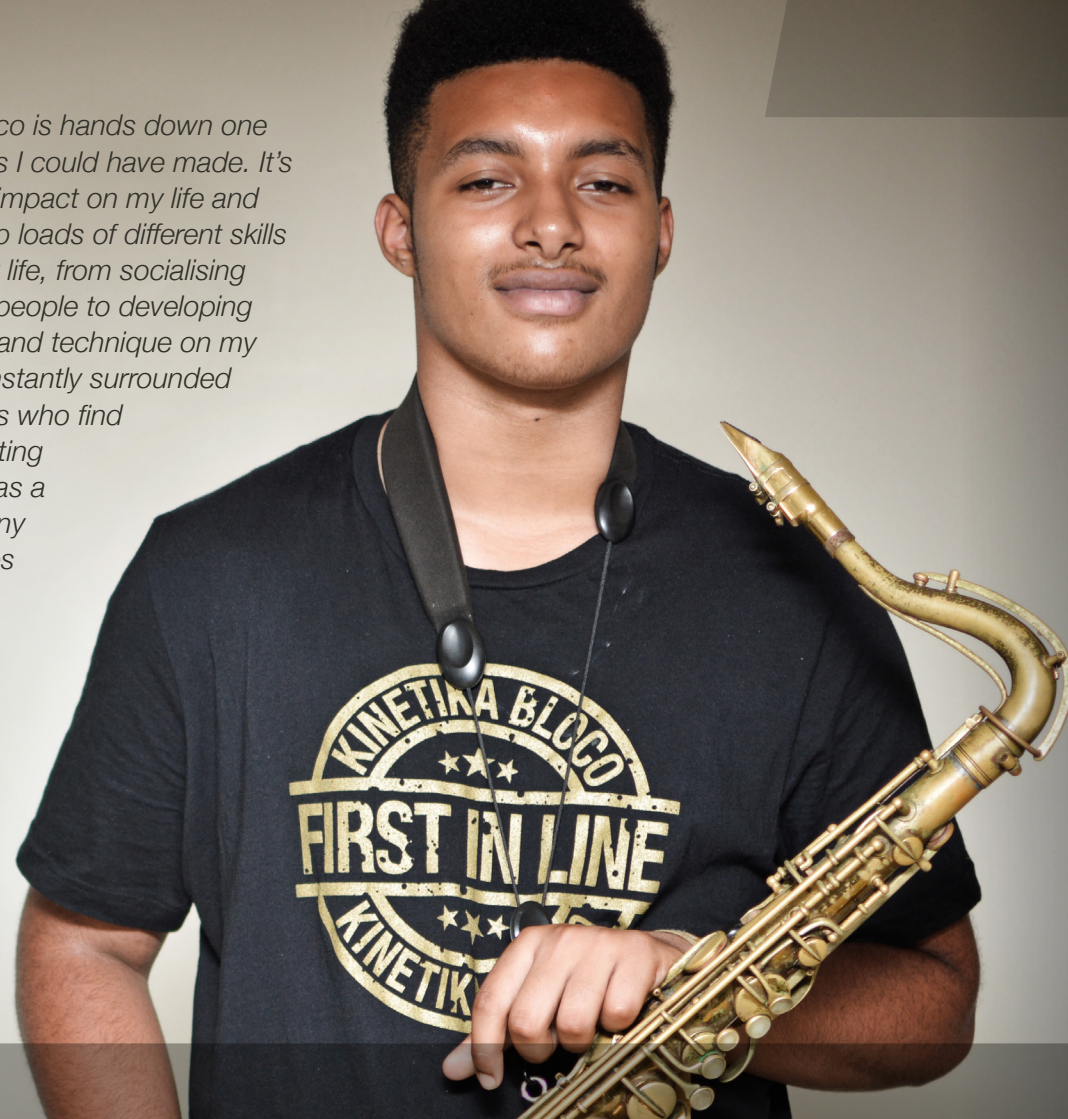
I have really stepped up my game on choreography - I used to be terrified of it! I feel like my understanding of performance and storytelling has grown massively through our yearly themes and beautiful costumes. I am very involved in community projects and that's all because of the work we do. I want to bring the wonder of performing with Bloco to the rest of the world because that feeling is truly magical.'

Arlowe, 20, Dancer



'Joining Kinetika Bloco is hands down one of the best decisions I could have made. It's had a very powerful impact on my life and has led me to develop loads of different skills that I use in every day life, from socialising with different types of people to developing my musicianship skills and technique on my instrument. You are constantly surrounded by world class musicians who find joy and believe in motivating you to be your very best as a musician and person. Many of my musical opportunities have come out of Bloco – through performing regularly to large audiences, travelling to Oslo, and, most importantly, meeting other musicians to collaborate with and create our own music and sound.'

Jaz, 17, Saxophone



'I joined last year and I play pans. Bloco has given me the opportunity to travel up and down the country. I have made new friendships and gained more confidence. I have also been exposed to different music genres. I look up to the leaders. I want to be a leader and help other young people be exposed to some of the positive experiences I have had'

Kias, 15, Steel Pan





'I started trumpet at the age of 12. I wasn't playing for long before I joined Kinetika Bloco. I was really terrified at the first Summer School. There were quite a few trumpet players and then there was Claude, who was at the front leading. When he picked up the trumpet, I was like "WOW!" He played so loud and so high, and I thought "that is what I want to do". When I started performing, I had the worst stage fright, but Bloco developed my confidence by giving me the chance to play in front of loads of people all the time. You don't really get that opportunity at school. I know how to go about a performance now because of being in Bloco. I think it is really important to become a role model, because that helped me a lot when I started. Nowadays I am doing what Claude was doing when I started out. At first it was scary because I thought I couldn't lead a trumpet section, but by doing it a lot, I have improved. Honestly, Bloco has changed my life. It's the reason I'm playing trumpet.'

Mark, 25, Trumpet



'I officially joined in 2002 but I was always around the band, as my father conceived and directed it. I now share the artistic direction of Bloco with my friends and colleagues. Bloco has taught me how to produce a strong sound and play in balance with other instruments. It's taught me a wide range of music and provided essential leading experience, and a stable environment for my generation to develop our skills together. I look up to the team for their continued devotion to bettering Bloco, but most of all to the young people who bring their vitality and energy to the community we are building. Bloco has been responsible for some of my closest friendships, life changing experiences and intense professional training. In the future, I hope to continue to write, create and perform music around the world.'

**Ruben, 26, Saxophone,
Clarinet, Flute**

'I joined Bloco when I was 14. It's where I learned to play. Bloco has played a massive role in me becoming a jazz musician. The greatest thing that Bloco has taught me is the importance of being open-minded about different genres, and learning about types of music from all over the world: someone like Fela Kuti, for example – I learned how important he is politically. When I started, I was literally at the beginning musically. Bloco was the first time I actually enjoyed playing trumpet – I got a deeper understanding of music and the community of music. Everyone's spirits intertwined: it's a spiritual experience.'

Sheila, 27, Trumpet



'I joined Kinetika Bloco in 2013 because it sounded interesting and was something to do over the holiday. My brothers Theon and Nathaniel had been in the Bloco almost since the beginning. When I see my brothers perform, it inspires me to work harder so that I can perform too. I see them and think "I can do that!". By being in Bloco, I've learned how to socialise and communicate with different people better. It's given me a chance to perform in places I've never been to before. In future, I'd like to perform professionally and collaborate with other musicians.'

Neoma, 18, Saxophone, with her brothers Nathaniel and Theon



Be our #BFF

Become a friend of Bloco today and help us to give more young people the opportunity to grow, learn and flourish.

Friend

£5 per month
£60 per year

Best Friend

£10 per month
£120 per year

Family Member

£25 per month
£300 per year

What you will receive:

Regular updates from Kinetika Bloco

*Invitations to performances
and exclusive BFF events*

Become a
Bloco Legend
Give £500 or more today

What you will receive:

*A thank you letter
from one of our members*

Regular updates from Kinetika Bloco

*VIP invitations to an exclusive
Legends event where you
can meet current members
and Bloco alumni*

www.kinetikabloco.co.uk/support-us

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A photograph of two men. The man on the left is wearing a black t-shirt with a graphic that says 'REAL BRIGHT', a long wooden bead necklace, and a black strap over his shoulder. He is holding a drumstick and a snare drum. The man on the right is wearing a white shirt with a blue and green floral pattern, glasses, and is smiling while holding a mallet. The background is a plain light grey wall with a dark grey geometric shape in the top right corner.

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