

BALLAKÉ SISSOKO

Ten fingers for twenty-one strings, and magic takes place, surely, calmly. Ballaké Sissoko enlaces us in his suave and crystalline sonority and his kora, magnified by his talent as a melodist and an improviser.

Ballaké Sissoko is the son of Djelimady Sissoko, a great master of the Manding Kora, a twenty-one-stringed harp whose crystalline sound has conquered the international public. Ballaké is one of the best Kora players of the new generation. He started learning the instrument at a very young age with his father. Having played with the prestigious Ensemble Instrumental du Mali and accompanied many female Malian singers, he earned his reputation by performing solo, in a duo with Toumani Diabate, with Taj Mahal, and with a number of other musicians.

Open to all adventures and encounters Ballaké is an over-talented instrumentalist who, drawing on tradition for inspiration, has forged his own personal style. An inspired improviser and a subtle melodist, he is a marvellous accompanist and an excellent composer. His group, Mandé Tabolo, composed of Mama Draba (vocals), Fassery Diabaté (Balafon) Adama Tounkara (N'Goni), Aboubacar Dembelé (Bolon) was created for Special Mali, organised by la Comédie de Valence in January 2000. He then performed in Mali and at the Musiques Métisses festival in Angoulême. His last album, « Deli », was produced at the Gil Evans studio in Amiens in June 2000. This production took place in a relaxed atmosphere, a bit like a jam session or a Cuban descarga. The album is the reflection of that.

Emotion, elegance, freshness and inventiveness make up some of the world's best music.

booking & management

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