

Cheick Hamala Diabate

Ake Ben Mali Denou

Cheick Hamala Diabate, the Grammy-nominated musician from Mali, West Africa, is recognized as one of the world's masters of the n'goni, banjo and guitar. He is a West African historian in the Griot tradition, a sought after performer, lecturer, storyteller and choreographer. Cheick, now living in Washington DC, began touring in the U.S. in 1995, and has performed throughout Africa, Europe, Asia and Canada. In addition to performing with his new group, which uniquely blends various vocal styles with contemporary and time-honored Manding Griot instrumentation, he performs solo and with his traditional Manding ensemble.

On his next CD, **Ake Ben Mali Denou** to be released March 5, 2013, Diabate includes elements of contemporary R&B, blues, reggae and jazz, all of which have roots in the music of Africa



Ake Ben Mali Denou

- 1 - Fanta Baby - 5:28
- 2 - Djiri Mardje - 7:42
- 3 - Prudence - 7:35
- 4 - Toun Ka Manyi - 8:03
- 5 - Fatou Kounkoun Sissoko - 7:56
- 6 - Boudofo - 4:14
- 7 - Diamonds and Gold (Mali Blues) - 5:53
- 8 - Dounouya (The Whole World) - 4:59
- 9 - Toun Ka Manyi (Reprise) - 1:44
- 10 - Minaminka Jalaka - 5:16

**Special Guests Toumani Diabate / Djelimady Tounkara
Corey Harris / Phil Wiggins**

Produced by Acoustra Productions

Mixed by Jay Newland, Rob Coltun, Michael Coltun,
and Cheick Hamala Diabate

Mastered by Scott Hull @ Masterdisk NYC

The Griot Tradition

Cheick Hamala was born into a griot family in Kita, Mali. From a young age he learned to play the n'goni, a stringed instrument related to the American banjo. A steward of the 800 year-old tradition of the Griot, the storytellers of West Africa, Cheick Hamala shares the oral history, music and song of his culture as it was passed down from parent to child. He learned to play the guitar from his uncle and now plays banjo and several other instruments; but his renown remains with the historical n'goni.

"The music we griots play is not just about making nice sounds for dancing, it's about giving a lesson to people about their lives. You tell them about what their grandfathers did, and what they should do now," explains Diabate, whose griot roots run deep as first cousin to kora master Toumani Diabate, and nephew to legendary Super Rail Band guitarist, Djelimady Tounkara. "People trust the griot more than anyone else."

Video Channel: www.youtube.com/cheickhamaldiabate
Twitter @cheickhamalad / @soundadvice

**2007 Grammy Nomination for
From Mali to America
with Bob Carlin**

Collaborations with

Salif Keita, Bela Fleck, Corey Harris,
Bob Carlin, Toumani Diabaté, Djelimady
Tounkara, Chooteeth Afrofunk Big Band,
Ami Koita, Kandia Kouyate, Yayi Kanoute,
Fanta Disco Fadiala Diawara.

Past Performance Venues

**New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival
Voodoo Fest
American Folk Festival
The White House
John F Kennedy Center
Smithsonian Institution
National Folk Festival
Toronto Afro Festival 2011
Festival International Lafayette
Chicago Blues Festival
Port Townsend Acoustic Blues Festival
Aulnay All Blues Festival 2010 (France)
Merle Fest
FloydFest**



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