

Moussa Diallo

Chiwara – Acoustic Mali Music

Winner of the Danish World Award 2003
"Album of the year"

It is with great pleasure that Sundance Records presents Moussa Diallo's new album, Chiwara. A musical journey back to his roots in the West African country of Mali, where this highly esteemed bass player grew up in the capital Bamako, with his Danish mother and his Malian father. Bamako is one of the world's most inspiring cities with its multitude of musical impressions. Chiwara is African music - world music, but music with broad appeal. Music that is easy to understand, that pleases the ear - fresh, bubbling and enticing.

The bass player Moussa Diallo is a veteran of Danish rock and fusion. Against his father's will, Moussa began playing at a very young age in Mali. As an adolescent he then moved to Copenhagen to fulfil his dream of becoming a musician.

His first band in the mid-seventies was the fusion group Lunatics. In the eighties he co-founded the extremely successful group Sneakers. A whole generation rocked along to Diallo's pulsing funk bass when Anne Linnet & Marquis de Sade released one of the highlights of Danish rock. For years Moussa Diallo has also been pivotal in popular soul vocalist Hanne Boel's band and is also working with The Savage Rose, trumpet player Palle Mikkelborg and many more.

Parallel with his prominent presence on the Danish rock scene, Moussa Diallo has worked on his Mali projects. The first album, The Kékéli Project, presented a number of musicians from Africa and Denmark. The next, Live At The Copenhagen JazzHouse, was the first of a trilogy of which Chiwara is the second.

On Chiwara, Diallo has created music, which is genuinely African, while still bearing his own unmistakable touch. This album features some of Mali's finest musicians, among them the late Sayon Sissoko, master of the ngoni. The ngoni is a kind of African banjo and Sayon Sissoko made an important contribution to Senegal's superstar Baaba Maal world acclaimed release 'Baayo'.

The kora, the West African calabash harp, is played beautifully by Mamadou Diabaté and Danish resident Basiru Suso, who has been a steady member of Moussa Diallo's band for several years. Important musical ingredients

throughout the CD are the characteristic balafon and the talking drum, played by another Danish resident Gambian Malick Jagne.

Moussa Diallo sings all the songs in Bambara and is supported by two genuine Jelimuso (Griots) Mama Kouyaté and Naini Koné. Their contribution is an important factor to this wholly original and successful album. A very personal statement from Moussa Diallo, where the seemingly intimate takes on a broader meaning.

This is essentially what Moussa Diallo's art is all about: swinging, earthy, contagious music; filled with brilliant details, in a finely woven fabric of African melodiousness.

Chiwara is dedicated to Moussa's father, the late Demba Moussa Diallo, paying homage to him by retelling some of the stories that Moussa recalls from his own childhood. It is likewise dedicated to the memory of Sayon Sissoko, the splendid ngoni player whose magnificent performance adorns this album.

Chiwara is an album that breaks down barriers and sets new standards for Danish world music. Chiwara features a fine artist in a sparkling new and surprising setting.