THE MUSIC AND DANCE OF GUINEA

with

N'nato Camara, Alseny “Michel” Diallo, and Mohamed Duranteau

PROGRAM

DJOLE (Jole) - Djole is a rhythm from the Temine people along the border region of Guinea and Sierra Leone. In the beginning it was a masked dance in which a man portrayed a woman. It is a very popular rhythm performed at festivals to celebrate a big harvest, the end of Ramadan or a wedding.

TRIBA is from the Landuma people of the Boke and Boffa regions of Western Guinea. Triba was played after the initiation (circumcision) of young women when mothers and daughters celebrated and danced together. Today it is a very popular rhythm performed at festivals.

CONCERT (KASSA AND FULA FARE) “Concert” is from the French and pronounced conesair. NNato presents two rhythms: KASSA is from the Malinke of Northeastern Guinea. It is a rhythm for the farmers and Kassa means "granary" in Malinke. The fields are often far away from the villages and the farmers live and work in the fields. Drummers play for the workers all day long and some girls sing and clap along. FULA FARE is a dance of the Fula (Peul) people of Guinea. NNato and dancers, dance and play around doundoun drums—it is very exciting to watch.

DOUNDOUNBA (DUNUNBA; Dance of the Strong Men) Dununba is the name of a family of 20 - 30 traditional Malinke rhythms. This dance was originally performed by men to settle tough and sometimes bloody disputes. It is now playfully performed, without the violence.

(Source: Mamady Keita. Ein Leben für die Djembe. Traditionelle Rhythmen der Malinke. Arunn-Verlag (1999)) -

PERFORMERS

N’nato Camara

In Malinke, N’Nato means “I’m Coming and she arrived in this world dancing”.

N’Nato Camara is a member of the Susu tribe and comes from the city of Conakry in Guinea, West Africa. In Guinea, N’Nato was the principal dancer with the Ballet Taille led by Mamadouba Camara, lead soloist for the Ballet Djoliba and
former Soloist for the Ballet Africans – two of West Africa’s most respected traditional groups. She also performed with Circus Baobob, Kaley Multicultural, and Aklyss. After arriving in Canada, N’Nato performed with various groups including school shows with Masabo Culture Company and primarily with Alpha Ya Ya Diallo.

Alseny “Michel” Diallo

Michel Diallo was the soloist (djembe) in the Ballet Taille in Conakry Guinea.

Mohamed Duranteau

Mohamed plays the Doundoun drums and dances - he was a dancer and doundoun percussionist in the Ballet Taille in Conakry Guinea.