



Ibrahima Cissokho releases his new album *Liberté*

This new production of the Senegalese musician shows his passion for playing the kora, an original West African instrument, and for taking it across other genres such as jazz, rock and funk.

Talking about universal topics, which transcend different cultures, is something that Ibrahima Cissokho has been doing for a while. For example, on his previous album, *Yanfu* (2016), he did so with songs like *Solidarité*.

And now, he will do so in his new album, *Liberté* (NarRator Records). “The title of my album is because I believe that – especially- today's world needs freedom, needs to be happy. It's the most important concept in this record. Nobody can live without it, you have to have it to feel alive,” says the artist. “It's different from my previous work, but at the same time, it's a continuation of it. That's why it also includes songs about love, ancestors, and other themes”.

And his characteristic style is also present. Coming from a Senegalese griot family (storytellers from West Africa) and with a tradition in the kora (an instrument from his region), Ibrahima incorporates this stringed instrument in his work. “My father, my grandfather, and other ancestors played it. It is a transmission of knowledge”, explains. He is the only one of his brothers to have learned this, but the influence of genres such as Mbalax - developed in his country and in The Gambia - has led him in other directions: “What I like most is trying to bring the sound of the kora, but moving it away from just traditional music, I like to give it a new sound,” he comments. Fusing it with genres like jazz and funk, he has developed her stylish Mandingo Afro-Rock.

The Senegalese's music is always accompanied by his band: the Mandingue Foly, made up of Abdourakhan Fall on bass, Jérôme Bartolomeo on saxophone, Ousmane Seydi on percussion, and Pham Trong-Hieu on drums.

As part of the promotion of his new album, Cissokho will tour different European countries, such as his country of residence, France, and others like Spain, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and Germany. The starting point will be when the musician presents *Liberté* in Lyon on May 1st, to continue the next day in Paris. Other cities will follow, such as Rotterdam, Utrecht, Copenhagen and Amersfoort. In Amsterdam, Barcelona and Malmö Ibrahima Cissokho will participate in the Babel Nights, sessions of different artists that enhance musical and cultural diversity.



ABOUT IBRAHIMA CISSOKHO

Ibrahima Cissokho was born in Senegal. He learned from his father and ancestors to play the kora, which provides a special sound when it is taken to genres such as rock, jazz and funk. In 2008, he took his particular style to France, where he is currently based, in the city of Lyon.

He has performed at important venues such as Théâtre de l'Oulle (Avignon), Fête de la Musique (Lyon), Lyon City Hall, Gadagne Museum (Lyon), Théâtre Astrée (Lyon), Amphi Opéra (Lyon), Sylvia Monfort Theatre (Saint-Brice), and Aristide Briand Hall (Saint-Chamond), among others. He has also participated in festivals and meetings, including Nuit des Griots at the Cité de la Musique (Marseille), Babel Jazz and Babel Sound Balaton Festival and Artist Residency (Hungary), Avignon Festival (Paris), Rihino Jazz Festival (Vienna), International African Music Exhibition (Dakar), Afro Soul Festival (Lyon).

In addition, Cissokho has been part of a musical theatre company that has toured Europe several times and had an outstanding participation in the TV program X Factor on the French music channel W9.

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