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DIALI CISSOKHO AND KAIRA BA PAIR UP WITH MALLARMÉ FOR A MASH-UP OF AFRICAN FOLK/ROCK MUSIC AND A CLASSICAL STRING QUARTET PLUS a FAMILY CONCERT @ Duke Gardens



Top insets left to right: Rosie Leavell, Shana Tucker, Suzanne Rouso
Libby Phelps, Leah Peroutka
2nd row, l to r: Jonathan Henderson, John Westmoreland
Bottom, l to r: Austin McCall, Diali Cissokho, Will Ridenour

Durham, NC (May 8, 2018) – The Mallarmé Chamber Players is proud to announce our next 2017-18 Series concert, in collaboration with Diali Cissokho and Kaira Ba. The concert will take place at Motorco Music Hall, Wednesday, May 30 at 7:30 pm.

In June of 2017 Mallarmé’s artistic director, Suzanne Rouso, was hired to record back-up tracks for Diali Cissokho and Kaira Ba’s newest album, *Routes*, and she was awed by the loveliness and power of the music. In discussion with several of the members of Kaira Ba, they decided to collaborate on a concert for the spring of 2018.

The resulting program - full of compelling music from two diverse traditions will feature songs from *Routes*. Mallarmé’s string quartet will play parts to four of the songs arranged by Kaira Ba’s bassist, Jonathan Henderson. Joining on vocals in several songs, will be vocalist/songwriter/cellist Shana Tucker.

In addition to Kaira Ba’s music, music of J.S. Bach, John Westmoreland and a string quartet, *Sunjata’s Time*, by Fodé Lassana Diabaté will be performed. *Sunjata’s Time* was a commission by the renowned Kronos Quartet as part of their [50 For The Future Project](#). Diabaté, a Malian Griot, recorded the piece on his own instrument, the balafon (22-key African xylophone) and then transcribed and arranged for string quartet by Jacob Garchik. The combined group will also play a mash-up of Bach’s Air on the G String with improvisation by Kaira Ba.

Four days after the Motorco performance, Mallarmé will present a **Family Concert** - “African Traditions” - featuring Diali Cissokho, kora and Austin McCall, percussion. The concert will take place on Sunday, June 3 at 1:00 pm at Sarah P. Duke Gardens’ Kirby Horton Hall. Griot and master kora player Diali Cissokho, originally from Senegal, lovingly calls North Carolina home. Watch Cissokho and highly attuned percussionist Austin McCall interweave melody, rhythm and 2000 years of history. Hear the calabash, dun duns, kora and lyrical Mandinka stories old and new. The concert will last an hour and is appropriate for all people 5 - 99 years old.

MALLARMÉ SERIES CONCERT 5

Diali Cissokho & Kaira Ba meet Mallarmé

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 7:30 pm (doors 6:30)
Motorco Music Hall, 723 Rigsbee Ave, Durham

ARTISTS

Diali Cissokho – kora; Jonathan Henderson – bass; Austin McCall – drums
Will Ridenour – percussion; John Westmoreland – guitar
Elizabeth Phelps and Leah Peroutka – violin; Suzanne Rousso – viola
Rosalind Leavell – cello; Shana Tucker – guest vocalist

PROGRAM

Fodé Lassana Diabaté - "Sunjata's Time" for string quartet
J. S. Bach – Air on the G String from the Orchestral Suite No. 3 in D Major
John Westmoreland – "Land of the Living"
Diali Cissokho arr. Jonathan Henderson -
 "Ndoli"
 "Xarit"
 "Alla L'a Ke"
 "Baayi Leen"
 "Naamusoo"
 "Ma Cherie"

Tickets: General Admission \$25 (plus \$2 cc fee) | Students/children \$5 at the door
<https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=78664> or call 919-560-2788

MALLARMÉ FAMILY CONCERT 3

African Traditions with Diali Cissokho and Austin McCall
Sunday, June 3, 1:00 pm
Kirby Horton Hall, Sarah P. Duke Gardens 400 Anderson Drive, Durham, NC

Tickets: Children and students \$5/ Adults \$10
<https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=80670> or call 919-560-2788

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Crossing cultural boundaries with a wide range of sounds, from explosive dance rhythms to soothing hypnotic grooves, **Diali Cissokho** brings an unparalleled virtuosity and unique personal style to this respected traditional art form on the kora. The kora is the 21-stringed African harp at the heart and soul of much West African music.

Diali's mother, MoussuKeba Diebate, and father, Ibrahima Cissokho, both hailed from long lines of griot musicians. Historically, each village had its own griot who told tales of births, deaths, marriages, battles, hunts and other important events and celebrations. In Mande society the griot, or jeli, served as a historian, advisor, praise singer, and storyteller. These musicians served as walking history books, preserving and sharing the stories and traditions of their culture through song. This inherited tradition, with deep connections to spiritual, social, and political powers, has been passed down through generations." <https://www.koraanddrums.com/>

Diali Cissokho & Kaira Ba take West African dance music into new territory—literally, the North Carolina Piedmont. Diali Cissokho, kora virtuoso, maintains this heritage while walking his own path, playing with youthful fire. The band is rounded out by four outstanding North Carolina musicians – Jonathan Henderson, Austin McCall, Will Ridenour, and John Westmoreland, each bringing their own musical influences to bear.

Kaira Ba has enjoyed a meteoric rise in its first years of existence. In 2012, the band recorded *Resonance*, a shimmering studio album that captures all the drive and intensity of its live performances. Wherever they play, Diali Cissokho & Kaira Ba summon audiences to the dance floor with West African grooves, all inflected with funk, soul, rock and music of the African Diaspora.

Diali Cissokho and Kaira Ba's newest album **Routes** will be released June 29th and builds a bridge across the Atlantic, connecting worlds thousands of miles apart but bound by a shared history. Over the course of two years, **Routes** was recorded in North Carolina, USA, and in M'bour, Senegal. The collaboration grew to include 35 musicians, each of whom listened deeply to the others in this musical conversation. Sounds of Senegal intertwined with those of the U.S. South, with musicians calling back and forth across two continents.

The **Mallarmé Chamber Players** is a flexible ensemble of professional musicians based in Durham, North Carolina since 1984, whose mission is to enrich the lives of their community through outstanding chamber music. The ensemble distinguishes itself by its innovative educational programs, its commitment to creative collaboration with other organizations, its creation of significant new work, and its dedication to serve a diverse population.

Mallarmé annually presents a series of compelling concerts that features diverse and multidisciplinary chamber music. Mallarmé performs everything from Baroque music on period instruments to newly commissioned works by contemporary composers (such as Bill Banfield, David Kirkland Garner, Mark Janello, Stephen Jaffe and Gabriela Lena Frank) to world music.

Mallarmé is a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c) 3 organization. The 2017-18 concert season is made possible in part by grants from the Durham Arts Council's Annual Arts Fund, the North Carolina Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. Mallarmemusic.org

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