

CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
& THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
DIVISION OF MUSICOLOGY AND ETHNOMUSICOLOGY  
PRESENT

# *Music of West Africa*

Diali Amadou Kouyate  
and Marhiri Edwards Keita

with the  
University of Maryland  
African Drum Ensemble

Special presentations by  
Children of Farafina Kan  
UrbanFoli



SATURDAY MAY 2, 2009 . 2PM  
ELSIE & MARVIN DEKELBOUM CONCERT HALL 29

*Content and order subject to change.*

**Drum solo**

Kweku Sumbry of Farafina Kan Youth Ensemble

**University of Maryland African Drum Ensemble**  
Directors: Amadou Kouyate and Mahiri Edwards Keita

***Temate***

(Arrangement: Amadou Kouyate)

This rhythm from the Wobe people of Cote D'Ivoire is played as young girls dance movements that represent cultivation and harvest of rice.

***Tiriba***

(Arrangement: Mahiri Keita; Song Arrangement/Lead Singer: Lesina Martin)

This is a welcome rhythm played by the Baga people of Boke, Guinea.

The song means: Umbrella for the heavy rain that is coming. Yalamba (a person's name), the spirit of the river will never leave me.

***Yamama***

(Arrangement: Amadou Kouyate)

This rhythm is from the Mandenya people of Samu, Guinea. It is played for a masquerade who is a protector of children.

***Djole***

(Arrangement: Mahiri Keita; Song arrangement/Lead Singer: Lesina Martin)

*Djole* is also a masquerade. It is performed by the Temine people of Sierra Leone and neighboring Guinea. The mask represents a woman, but is worn by a man to pay homage to women. It was originally played on square drums called siko, but it has been adapted to the djembe orchestra. The song means "The drummers are reunited for the celebration. Mamady is going to join them for the celebration of the siko drums. Let's play our siko drums. Let's begin the siko party."

INTERMISSION

**Drum solo**

Agyei Keita of Farafina Kan Youth Ensemble

**Farafina Kan Youth Ensemble**  
Director: Mahiri Keita

***Kuku***

(Arrangement: Mahiri Keita)

This rhythm can be found in Beyla and Odjene, Guinea, as well as Cote D'Ivoire. It is a popular rhythm played in all sorts of festivals. Originally, it was played when the women came back from fishing. They would take their fishing tools and dance.

***Zaouli***

(Arrangement: Mahiri Keita)

This rhythm is from the Gouro people of Cote D'Ivoire. It is a masquerade of a woman worn by a man, representing physical and spiritual beauty.

**UbranFoli**  
Director: Menes Yahudah

**Urbanfoli Kan**

(Created by Menes Yahudah)

**Finale**

(All Groups)

***Tiriba***

*Please remember to turn off pagers, watch alarms and cellular telephones.*

*Photography or recording of any kind without advance permission is prohibited.*

Out of consideration for the artists and the audience, please note that no one will be seated while music is being performed. Latecomers will be seated at the first appropriate interval.



## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### Children of Farafina Kan

Farafina Kan literally translates to the sound of Africa. We are a professional performing arts company dedicated to maintaining the history and integrity of traditional African drumming and dancing. Under the tutelage of international performing arts legends, Farafina Kan seeks to sustain the work initiated by these legends through professionalism, artistry, continual learning and proactive intergenerational transmission of African culture through music and movement. Farafina Kan is a family! We comprise young African-American artists who have been reared in various other dance companies including but not limited to Memory of African Culture, Sankofa Dance Theatre, Kankouran West African Dance Company, Dono Drum and Dance Ensemble, Maimouna Keita West African Dance Company and Wose Dance Theatre. We are eternally grateful to our parents for having the foresight to search for the traditions of our ancestors and the many elders who have and continue to pave the way for us to do what we do today.

### Urban Foli

Founded and directed by Menes Yahudah, Urban Foli is an eclectic mix of traditional West African music, jazz, funk, hip-hop, spoken word, dance and truth. Through thoughtful and creative blends, Urban Foli is the anonymous witness that sees all from the eagle's perch and always tells the whole truth.

**The UM African Drum Ensemble** teaches UM students to play simple and complex patterns for effective execution of traditional rhythmic compositions for the Djembe drum ensemble. The African Drum Ensemble is designed to allow students to experience traditional African cultures as exemplified in the traditions of kora music, balafon music and Manding-style drumming. Students learn the fundamental techniques of playing the 21-string kora, the 21-key balafon, the djembe drum and the dunun drum through an iterative process that progresses from simple melodic and rhythmic phrases in a single tuning and/or rhythmic style, to more complex patterns, and on to composition. There are two public performances annually in which students have the opportunity to perform with consummate West African musicians.

**Amadou Kouyate** is the first Diali born in the Americas. As heir to the Kouyate legacy, Amadou's life revolves around the oral tradition of transmitting and safeguarding the history of his clan through music and the arts. He continues to travel around the world performing with various groups dazzling audiences with his speed, grace and power. He is an avid and professional Kora player and is also proficient in all types of other traditional West African instruments such as Kutiro, Sabar, Djembe, Balafon, Krin and Tama. He is a student at Howard University and teaches Djembe at several other universities in the DC area. Amadou is an official dedicated aficionado of all music. He teaches the Beginning African drum class at UM on Mondays 7-8:30PM.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS AND ENSEMBLE MEMBERS

**Mahiri-Fadjimba Keita Edwards** has been drumming for over two decades. He was a lead drummer at the age of eight in Trenton, New Jersey, and participated in his first international tour at 14, performing with the Maimouna Keita School of West African Dance Children's and Adult Company (NY) at the Sorano Theater in Dakar, Senegal. Mahiri continues to commit his life to studying Mandingue drumming extensively with master musicians and historians of Mandingue and other West African traditions, including Mamady Keita (Guinea), Famoudou Konate (Guinea), Fadouba Oulare (Guinea) and Djimo Kouyate (deceased-Senegal). He has toured internationally and nationally as a lead drummer with several professional performing companies, including Mamady Keita's production tour "Sewakan," Memory of African Culture Performing Company and Wo'se African Dance Theatre. As a graduate of Tam Tam Mandingue (TTM), a school of percussion founded by Mamady Keita, he is the first appointed instructor in the United States. Mahiri teaches the Second Level African Drum Class at UM on Wednesdays, 7-8:30PM.

### UM African Drum Ensemble Students of Amadou Kouyate

Christel Antoine Francois  
Dustin Robert Fronczak  
Hanna Kim  
Laura Ann Lehman  
Jaclyn Orali Littman  
Glen Alan McDaniel  
Timothy James Meyers  
Aaron Hillel Novak  
Jonathan Michael Resnick  
Jonah Henry Richmond  
Eduardo Josue Rivera  
Michael Robert Rozak  
William Durst Stem  
Jennifer Ruth Young

### UM African Drum Ensemble Students of Mahiri Edwards Keita

Anuj Arihant Agrawal  
Eloy Areu  
Allison Rae Basile  
Steven Lee Billingsley  
Peter J. Busher  
Gabriel M. Bustos  
David Olawuyi Fakunle  
Jeremy Foutz  
Julia Frantz  
Shaun Eric Garin  
Kirk A. Kubicek  
Aaron Jon Glad Pearce  
Melanie Turner Pinkert  
Anton Jamarr Wallace  
Patrick C. Wise

