

NAXOS



WORLD

AADO

SENEGALESE KORA

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Kadialy's captivating kora skills originate from his long family history of Kouyate griots. Born in southern Senegal, into a vibrant Mandinka culture, he instinctively picked up the traditional griot repertoire. Embracing the art of traditional storytelling, via the 21-stringed kora, he soon became known as an acclaimed musician, singer and songwriter. Today, he draws on his past heritage for inspiration while creating his own hypnotic and uplifting compositions.

Wanting to pass the tradition on to new generations, he began teaching the kora at Dakar University and at the West African Research Centre in Senegal. He continued this passion when he moved to London, teaching at SOAS University of London, where he still tutors today.

Since his arrival in the UK, he has enriched the London musical scene with his griot legacy by getting involved in countless musical projects. Such collaborations include working with *Mumford & Sons* and *Baaba Maal*, the multicultural fusion group *Rafiki Jazz*, Brazilian percussionist *Adriano Adewale* and Venezuelan harpist *Leonard Jacome*.

Kadialy has performed at many prestigious venues such as The Royal Festival Hall, The Queen Elizabeth Hall, The Royal Albert Hall and the O2 Arena. He has also played festivals across the world while touring Europe, Canada, Australia and North and South America. He has featured on various TV and radio shows such as BBC Radio 3's *World Routes*, Charlie Gillett's *World of Music* and *BBC World Service*. He has released several albums, with 'Nemo' receiving glowing reviews across the UK. 'Nemo' also appeared in a *Songlines Top of The World* article, in their July 2020 issue.

"...Admirable skill and precision." – **Songlines#125**

"Kadialy's skilful and emotional playing of the kora produces some peaceful ethereal and yet highly melodic rhythms which I truly love."

– **The Folk Roots**

"Kadialy Kouyate's kora playing soothes the soul with its beautiful melodies and deep messages from the griot tradition of West Africa."

– **Penny Black Music, Nicky Crew**

AADO

In Mandinka culture, 'aado' stands for 'moral customs and values' – principles that are held in high regard among the community. These core foundations run throughout the album as a reminder of the important values needed within ourselves and our society.

For example, *Daña* is a song that speaks directly to us as individuals. It is a song about personality, referring to the good qualities of a person. Greetings and good wishes towards others are highlighted in *Kontondiro* and *Nganiyo*. These are significant values in Senegalese culture as they symbolise respect and consideration for those around you. *Buña* is a song about hospitality, a tradition also known in Wolof as 'teranga'. Teranga encapsulates a spirit of generosity, a sharing of all things with everyone, even strangers.

Kadialy reflects on loved ones around us with his rendition of the traditional love song *Diyaname*, meaning 'my darling.' *Djiko*, or 'hope', is also a song dedicated to those we rely on most.

Thiosano is a song about inheritance. In Senegal, the word 'thiosane' means 'our shared tradition'. One of many shared and highly respected traditions in the Mandinka culture is the art of the griot; *Sora* is Kadialy's take on this traditional song dedicated to the art. It also celebrates the Cissokho family, one of the most highly regarded griot families.

Kadialy ends with *Janjon Ba*, his take on a traditional song associated with the great warrior Fakoli. When Fakoli's uncle attempted to upturn the Mandinka states in the 13th century, Fakoli left his side to join the ranks of Sunjata Keita. Fakoli was later revered for his bravery. The Fakoli rhythm is now played for reputable leaders and those who have done good deeds.

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Liner notes by
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