



PRESS RELEASE

Ali Farka Touré & Toumani Diabaté 'In the Heart of the Moon' (WCD072)

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"The most beautiful music on Earth" MOJO

This is a unique album of duets from Ali Farka Touré and Toumani Diabaté, two of Africa's greatest musicians. It is also the first new recording by either artist in over 5 years.

"A thrilling display of profound musical play from two of Mali's greatest stars. The music opens up like a box of treasures treating the listener to some of the finest improvised music it is ever likely to hear; playing of almost supernatural invention." The Independent .

'In the Heart of the Moon' is an inspired collaboration from two of Malian music's most important artists, guitarist Ali Farka Touré and kora (West African harp) player Toumani Diabaté. Although they originally planned to duet on just one track, their creativity could not be contained, and a complete album's worth of new material was recorded. There were no rehearsals, and performances were improvised from repertoire familiar to both men. With an electric atmosphere that was almost palpable, the album was recorded in three 2 hour sessions over consecutive days with a mobile studio at the Hotel Mandé, on the banks of the Niger River in Bamako, Mali.

Ali Farka Touré, known internationally as the king of the desert blues, developed his unique guitar style from the Songhai and Peul traditions of his home in Northern Mali. Toumani Diabaté, acknowledged as the finest kora player in the world, is a master of the centuries old Mandinka griot traditions. Together they make a sublime pairing. The recordings also feature subtle contributions from Ry Cooder on kawai piano & ripley guitar, Sekou Kanté and Cachaíto López on bass, Joachim Cooder and Olalekan Babalola on percussion.

This recording is the first part of a trilogy of albums recorded by Nick Gold's World Circuit at the Hotel Mandé. Following the duets album are albums by Toumani Diabaté's extraordinary pan-African Symmetric Orchestra and Ali Farka Touré with his unique downhome n'goni (traditional Malian guitar) band. Reports of this historic recording have resulted in the album being one of the most eagerly awaited African releases in many years, and initial feedback describes the "First fruit from their recent collaboration proves to be utterly delicious," (Observer Music Monthly).