

## Oumou Sangare - Bi Furu (1993)

Written by bluelover

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### Oumou Sangare - Bi Furu



Face A 1. *Kaini Wura* 2. *Ko Sira* 3. *Dugu Kamalen Ba* 4. *Nawo Nawo* [play](#) Face B 1. *Sigi Kuruni* 2. *Mani Jin Dala* 3. *Bi Furu* 4. *Saa Magni*

In 1990, Wassoulou singer Sangare became a superstar in West Africa with *Moussolou*, which sold an astonishing 250,000 copies (many more were likely pirated). She received much of her attention for writing and singing lyrics that specifically addressed concerns of women in modern West African society, such as the conflict between marriage and personal freedom; not a shocking subject in the Western world, perhaps, but a pioneering one for the popular music of the region. Western listeners who can't understand the lyrics will be drawn in by her mellifluous vocals and smooth, circular compositions, which use full arrangements without sounding over-produced. Both traditional instruments and electric guitars/basses are prominently used (without getting in each other's way) on her 1993 release *Ko Sira*, her most widely available recording in the U.S.

A strong set of all-original material that has its cake and eats it too. With unobtrusive electric guitar and bass blending in with more traditional instruments like flute and djembe, it's both more accessible to modern audiences than traditional African instrumentation, and not as pop- and dance-oriented as much contemporary African music. The focus remains on Sangare's gliding singing (thickened by a couple of female backup singers) and the music's looping (but not laid-back) grooves.

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