

Oumou Sangaré – Moussolou (1991)

Written by bluelover

Friday, 29 March 2013 17:20 - Last Updated Sunday, 21 May 2017 15:09

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1 *Djama Kaissoumou* 2 *Diaraby Nene* 3 *Woula Bara Diagna* 4 *Moussolou* 5 *Diya Gneba* 6 *Ah Ndiya* Personnel: Oumou Sangaré (vocals); Boubacar Diallo (guitar); Aliou Traore (violin); Ahmadou Ba Guindo (bass); Brehima Diakite (bongos, kamelngoni); Oumou Sinayoro, Nabintou Diakite (background vocals).

Hailing from the Wassoulou forest region of Mali, singer Oumou Sangaré helped modernize the acoustic-native mix of hunters' songs and sogoninkun dance music she grew up with. Finding her way to the city of Abidjan in 1989, Sangaré cut a cassette that would eventually sell close to a quarter of a million copies; it became her debut disc, compliments of the World Circuit label. And while she would go on to cut albums with a mix of traditional and tastefully chosen Western elements, *Moussolou* captures Sangaré in all her sensual acoustic glory. Undulating atop a musical base featuring violin, the djembe goblet drum, a call-and-response choir, and the kamalengoni harp, Sangaré daringly speaks out against such traditional practices as polygamy and arranged marriages. She fleshes out these modern views -- for Mali and many other African countries, at least -- with songs that both encourage her countrymen to recognize women as individuals and focus on a girl's struggle to reconcile old values with modern needs. A find for fans of West African folk-pop music.--- Stephen Cook, Rovi

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