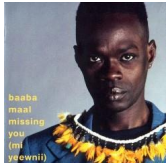


Baaba Maal - Missing You (Mi Yeewnii) (2001)

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1 *Yoolelle Maman* 4:18 2 *Miyaabele* 3:52 3 *Fa Laay Fanaan* 4:50 4 *Leydi Ma* 3:47 5 *Jamma Jenngii* 4:28 6 *Fanta* 4:20 7 *Laare Yoo* 4:42 8 *Senegaale Ngummee* 5:00 9 *Mamadi* 4:56 10 *Kowoni Maayo (Mi Yeewnii)* 5:49 11 *Allah Addu Jam* 7:46 Baaba Maal - Primary Artist, Vocals John Leckie - Mixing, Producer

The material on this incandescent release evokes the Senegalese superstar Baaba Maal's previous acoustic stunners, *Djam Leeli* and *Baayo*. Maal's piercingly gorgeous, stratospheric Islamic wailing soars over melodies constructed along austere yet sensuous lines as he sings of Africa's imminent heyday, romantic love, and ancient tales. He interacts with constantly shifting strands of song fashioned by guitarists Mansour Seck (Maal's best friend from childhood, who also sings second voice) and Kante Manfila, plus the nimble-fingered kora, or West African harp, of Kaouding Cissokho. The lead trio ripples and leaps among woodsy balafons (xylophones), rattling and swooping talking drums and sabar percussion, and resonant, gutty plucked strings. The ambiance recalls Maal's legendary small-venue live performances or dusk in a small Fulani village, where musicians who have played together all their lives still surprise each other while everybody else sings along. Seasoned fans and newcomers alike will be challenged, astonished, and delighted. --Christina Roden, Editorial Reviews

As one of Africa's most pivotal musicians, Baaba Maal has consistently produced music that challenges cultural expectations as well as political/social consciousness. Since he was not born into the griot caste, the group that traditionally produces music and documents history, Maal oversteps many barriers to create tunes that inspire dancing, thinking, and spiritual connection. *Missing You (Mi Yeewnii)* represents a pinnacle of sorts. After the commercial success of *Firin' in Fouta* and *Nomad Soul*, which were albums that presented a seamless

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blending of modern and traditional cultures, Missing You returns to the natural essence of African music -- the people and land itself. It's an offering that reaches both the modern and traditional worlds without compromise. This CD is a collection of intimate, pure tunes enhanced only by traditional instruments and Maal's soaring voice. Recorded in the small village of Nbunk, just outside of Maal's native Dakar, the album brims with the nuances of rural African life. Composed on acoustic guitar, the songs range from the throbbing percussion of "Leydi Ma," to the unadorned simplicity of "Miyaabele," a melody indigenous to all of West Africa, which Maal brilliantly uses as a plea for African unity. Boasting balafons, koras, drums, hoddu (African lute), and even crickets, Missing You reflects Maal's vision of one Africa, and it's a beautiful vision indeed. ---Rosalind Cummings-Yeates, AllMusic Review

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