

Tata Dindin Jobarteh

World music fans will need no introduction to this artist, nor to the famous Jobarteh clan based in the town of Brikama, The Gambia, West Africa.

Hailing from a distinguished lineage of Mandinka '**Jalis**' (praise-singers, the keepers of Traditional history & oral law), Tata Dindin, the eldest son of Malamini Jobarteh, & grandson of legendary Keluntang Jobarteh & Alagie Bai Conteh, began to study the **Kora** (the West African 21-string 'harp' crafted from the Calabash fruit or gourd) from the age of 5 years.

Traditionally attached to Noblemen in the region, the Jali would accompany them on their travels, advising audiences on modes of behavior based on indigenous customs, as well as lauding the Aristocrat's great deeds. In this way, the great history of the Manding Empire, (stretching all of way from Mali to modern day Guinea Bissau), was passed on from generation to generation.

Tata's childhood was divided between secular & Quranic education, & learning the many skills incumbent on a typical young student Jali. From a young age Tata has performed either solo, or with family members, with his Salaam band, or later on in his career, in collaboration with European musicians. Based in Europe since 1992, his talent has earned him a secure place on the World circuit; from appearances at **WOMAD** festivals worldwide, he has often represented his country; from Hamburg to Havana, from Zurich to Zanzibar, he has performed or led workshops in between many recording & session projects.

His activities to date include his debut album released in 1995 '**Salam-New Kora Music**' (WSN) followed by a series of interesting projects over the years, in particular – inclusion in '**Ambiances du Sahara-Desert Blues**'(NM), Stern's '**Generation Boule Fall – Streets of Dakar**', **The Rough Guide to the Music of Senegal & The Gambia**' & '**Kairo-Sounds of The Gambia**' followed by live album with Hans Ludemman – '**Piano meets Kora**' (RISM), '**Trio Ivoire**' (**ENJA**) & sessions on Senegalese artist Magou's hit album '**Africa-Yewul**' (WSN).

In late 2005 Tata joined **André Heller's** magnificent **Circus Afrika! Afrika!** production, currently touring throughout Europe, & selling to date, in excess of 2.5million tickets. As the most popular musical acts from a cast of 150, he was one of 3 artists selected for the successful German feature film '**Back To Africa**' based on the Circus, launched earlier this year. At present he is taking a short 'sabbatical' from the Circus to take part in the **Klangwelten Festival of World Music** currently on tour in Germany.

His follow-up album '**Kanaké**', ('Don't Do It' in the Mandinka language as well as the name of a German Anti-racism Movement) was recorded in The Gambia & UK. It highlights a new level of personal & spiritual development on Tata's personal journey, against a rich cultural & Islamic backdrop. Collaborating with musicians from across the spectrum, including Fulani '**Riti**' player & 2008 BBC3 World Music Award winner **Juldeh Camara**, this 12 track project with its haunting melodies & fusion of Classical African, Middle Eastern & Western instrumentation demonstrates a new level of maturity that will surprise existing fans, & *Inshallah*, win over many new ones!

(End)