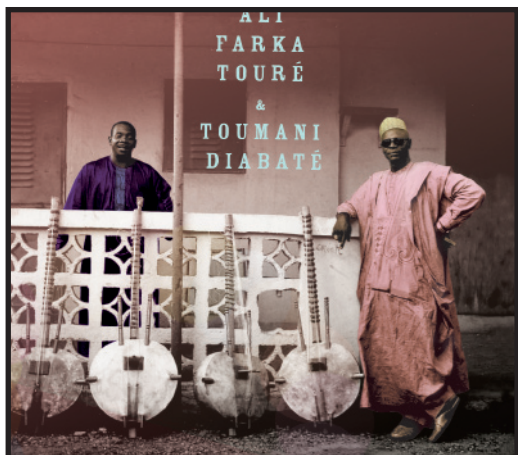




ALI FARKA TOURE & TOUMANI DIABATE
ALI & TOUMANI

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Ali & Toumani is an album of duets from two of Africa's most distinguished musicians, the late guitarist **Ali Farka Touré** and kora player **Toumani Diabaté**. **In The Heart Of The Moon**, the duo's first album together, won a Grammy following its 2005 release.

After the success of their first album together, Touré and Diabaté were invited to perform a series of concerts in Europe, before which Diabaté asked **World Circuit's Nick Gold** to make studio time for them to record again. Gold, with Moon engineer **Jerry Boys**, recorded **Ali & Toumani** over three afternoons at Livingston Studios, London, in mid-2005. Less than a year later, Touré succumbed to a long illness and passed away.

The record includes subtle contributions from **Orlando "Cachaíto" López** (bass), as well as **Vieux Farka Touré** (congas and backing vocals), **Souleye Kane** (backing vocals), **Ali Magasa** (backing vocals), and **Tim Keiper** (percussion). **Ali & Toumani** became the last album recorded by **Cachaíto Lopez** as well.

The album culminates a long relationship between **Ali Farka Touré** and **Nick Gold/World Circuit** that includes such internationally acclaimed recordings as **The Source** (1991); **Talking Timbuktu** (1996), Touré's Grammy-winning collaboration with **Ry Cooder**; **Niafunke** (1999); **In The Heart Of The Moon** (2005); and **Savane** (2006), among other releases.

After **Niafunke**, Touré had retired from music to devote himself to what he considered his primary vocation: cultivating the land in the Malian town after which that recording was named. He was elected mayor of Niafunke just before the Hotel Mandé Sessions began in January 2004.

Fifty-fourth in a hereditary line of master musicians and griots, **Toumani Diabaté** is at once revered as the guardian of an ancient musical tradition and as a bold, boundary-crossing experimentalist. He has earned acclaim for inventive solo records as well as collaborations with **Björk**, **Blur's Damon Albarn**, **Dee Dee Bridgewater**, American bluesman **Taj Mahal**, and jazz trombonist **Roswell Rudd**, among others. Diabaté's **The Mandé Variations** was widely celebrated including critical praise from CBS News Sunday Morning, NPR and the New York Times, among others.

For more information go to www.worldcircuit.co.uk



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