



ALPHA YAYA DIALLO

& BAFING

Let us introduce you to **Bafing**,

a new project by three-time Juno Award winner, **Alpha Yaya Diallo**. Bafing is a celebration of dancing, virtuoso musicianship, and hypnotic percussion... all the elements that make the music of West Africa one of the most entertaining on the continent.

Early in 2012, with the support of the Banff Centre, Alpha's band will be joined by two great African instrumentalists, **Naby Camara** (balafon) and **Prince Diabaté** (kora), as well as choreographers, **N'nato Camara** and **Mariam Camara**. There they will create a new touring production; ninety minutes of pure entertainment. The magic of West Africa's Bafing River will be brought to the stage. Like the river, the music will be influenced by the sounds of Senegal, Mali and the musician's homeland, Guinea. Irresistible rhythms and exuberant dance will fill the stage, giving the audience a taste of the magic of West Africa.

Alpha's says of the project, "Since coming to Canada, I have dreamed about bringing together both the dance and music of Guinea to the stage. N'nato and I have performed together for many years but we have never really built a big show... something that has energy and colour and movement...something that explodes on the stage. I performed with Prince Diabaté at the Vancouver Jazz Festival and Hollywood Bowl in 2000. We've wanted to work together since and now is the time. And Naby is simply one of the best balafon players anywhere".

Promotional materials along with You tube video will be available summer 2012.

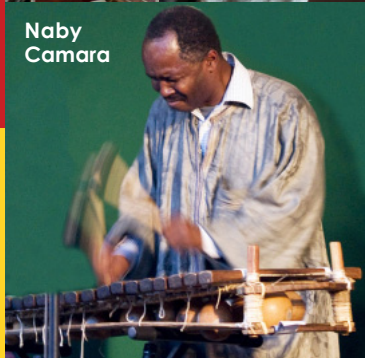




Alpha
Yaya
Diallo

Alpha Yaya Diallo — guitar, percussion

Alpha Yaya Diallo, guitarist, singer, and songwriter, is one of the most powerful artists on the World Beat circuit today. A 3-time Juno Award-winner, Diallo is a true multi-cultural, multi-talented artist performing in French, English and his native Guinean languages of Fulani, Malinke, and Sosoxi. Alpha Yaya Diallo's voice and music have featured in Hollywood blockbusters "District 9" and "Rendition." His most recent album *Immé (Rise Up)* on Jericho Beach Music, is one of his most confident to date, incorporating the playing and production of violinist Jesse Zubot. The album tackles the big issues of our day, including climate change, immigration, the need for social engagement, and more. Even better, given some of its riveting themes, it drives people to the dance floor, while contributing to positive social development.



Naby
Camara

Naby Camara — balafon

Naby Camara was born in Boke, a village in the coastal region of Guinea, West Africa. He is a griot or traditional oral historian, as are/were his father, brother, grandfather, and great grandfather. His work with Alpha has earned him two Juno Awards for Best Global Album. The legendary balafon player Amadu Djabaté was Naby's first teacher. He began playing music at the age of three, and is a master of balafon, djembe, and doundoun. In Africa, Naby played for many traditional ceremonies, weddings and celebrations. He was also a member of numerous well known groups such as Fatala, Les Merve, Mandeng Yahara, Les Ballet African de Guinea, as well as performed many years with Alpha Yaya Diallo.



N' nato
Camara

N' nato Camara — dancer

N' nato Camara comes from the city of Conakry in Guinea West Africa. In Guinea, N' nato was the principal dancer with the Baille Taille, a group led by Mamadouba Camara, lead soloist for the Ballet Djoliba and former soloist for the Ballet Africains; two of West Africa's most respected dance groups. She also performed with Circus Baobab, and Kaley Multicultural. In August 2008 she was the Choreographer and Artistic Director of "Explosion Africane", as part of Festival Vancouver. She has toured throughout North America and Europe with "Les Amazones de Guinea". N' nato has performed as a member of Alpha's band for several years.



Mariama
Camara

Prince Diabaté — kora

Prince Diabaté hails from a prominent, Malinké family from Guinea, West Africa. He learned his art from his father, Djéli Sori Diabaté. Breaking with tradition, his father also taught Prince's mother, Hadja Djéli Sira Cissoko, to play kora. Considered to be one of the leading kora players of his generation, Prince Diabaté brings not only total mastery over his ancestral tradition, but a commitment to renew it through fresh ideas and exchanges with musicians from many cultures. He has collaborated with many important musicians over the years from The New Mexico Symphony Orchestra, to Hassan Hakmoun, Michael Brook, and Grammy Award winners, Ozomatli.

"The Guinean kora master, Prince Diabaté, updates griot music for Westerners without diminishing its traditional power."—*The New Yorker Magazine*



Prince
Diabaté

BOOKING IN CANADA:

Jensen Music International, **Bob Jensen**: jensen@jproductions.com
Mainstage Management, **Jack Schuller**: jack@mainstagemanagement.com