

# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

## Vieux Bakayoko

M'Bolokang (Bakayoko Music/Baka01CD)

UK distribution: Believe (Zimbalam, Digital Distribution: itunes, Amazon etc)

Release date: **15th October 2011**

Website: [www.vieuxbakayoko.com](http://www.vieuxbakayoko.com), [www.hamanaafrica.co.uk](http://www.hamanaafrica.co.uk), [reverbnation page](#)

### Who is Vieux Bakayoko?

Ansoumana 'Vieux' Bakayoko is a 'djembefola' (djembe player) from West Africa. From mixed Malian and Guinean heritage he spent his childhood in Senegal before travelling across the Mandeng lands of Mali, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast and back to Senegal learning from the great drum masters of the age. Leaving home at the age of twelve, he travelled widely, accumulating knowledge which now singles him out amongst his peers, his unique repertoire gained by living and learning with the many and varied ethnic tribes of the great West African nations. Ansoumana himself is from the Bambara ethnic group, part of the great Mandeng empire. His mother is from northern Guinea and his father from southern Mali, many of his family remain in the small villages he left behind to travel and pursue his craft. The Malinke (Bamabara) are widely regarded as the kings of this great musical tradition.

As a teenager and then a young man he worked hard to gain respect and renown as a 'Ballet' soloist and musical director for many great West African troupes. A style developed and made popular in the cultural revolution of the 1960's in Guinea, the ballet is a great exposition of the combined talents of the West African music and dance traditions. Music, dance, theatre and song come together to produce complex, lyrical and exciting performances relaying tales from traditional village life.

***Since arriving in the UK in 2006 Ansoumana 'Vieux' Bakayoko has brought his incredible talent and energy to UK audiences through his powerful performance company Hamana. Founded and directed by Ansoumana, the troupe features some of the best UK and West African drummers and dancers and is in demand across the country for its explosive and complex performances of the 'ballet'.***

### What is the background to the new recording M'Bolokang?

Ansoumana "Vieux" Bakayoko is now resident in the UK, and has been developing a huge following on the West African music scene over the last five years. His passion for the music of the Mandeng

people is matched by his talent and the huge knowledge gained through his travels across the great musical nations of West Africa. Driven to share his passion for the djembe, and its traditional home alongside the n'goni, bolon, balafon and the unmistakable voices of the women of Africa, Vieux travelled home to record his debut album, live, close to the sea, with the artists he had grown up with.

M'Bolokang is a celebration of the rhythms of the people of Mali and Guinea, drawing on traditions from tribes of both nations he explores the music of the Susu people, the Baga tribes and the Malinke, his own people.

Vieux brings a complex and beautiful touch to his solo's, not filling the space but creating a breathtaking synergy of timings, weaving the music of eight instruments seamlessly together. Directed and produced by Vieux, M'Bolokang is the beginning of a journey, taking the listener to the heart of original and traditional rhythms now developed and expanded within the great performance tradition that is the 'ballet'.

Vieux offers the listener a glimpse of the heart of West African Culture.

Of the tracks on the new album, Vieux notes:

- Yankadi - a dance of love, performed by men and women, the man demonstrating his feelings by placing a shawl around the neck of his love
- Soli - traditional circumcision dance performed by the whole village for boys of 7+
- Boumba - celebrating Vieux's father, Noumoudou Bakayoko
- Konkoba - farming rhythm from Guinea
- Mane - women's dance from Guinea
- Yamama - masked dance celebrating the rice harvest
- Bolokonondo - Doundounba from the Hamana region
- 'Vieux' - celebrating Vieux's life and friends; 'no-one can change our destiny - we must take responsibility for ourselves'
- Kawa - a fetish dance, performed by initiated men against evil
- Yoki - women's dance
- Beredouka - a traditional Doundounba, 'the dance of the strong men'

Vieux Bakayoko is available for interview and radio / TV sessions. Please contact Saskia Bakayoko

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