

GOKH-BI SYSTEM

SENEGALESE RAP & HIP-HOP ARTISTS

Message From Home...Suma Deuk Waay is the debut recording by Gokh-bi System. They are a group of young Senegalese musicians whose music combines their traditional drums with the haunting and beautiful three-stringed ekonting. To this sound they add their unique multi-language rhythm poetry, their unusual city and village dance styles, and a decidedly urban form of hip storytelling. The result is Message from Home...

Message From Home is a heady blend of griot magic and street wise survival ethics. It's American rap meeting up with the African branch of it's family tree. It's global-minded hip-hop meeting Senegalese mbaalax on the dance floor, on the festival stages around the world, and in the dusty fields of back country Africa. It's a balance between the community minded lessons of West African traditions, and the tradition of innovation. In English, French, Wolof, Serer, Jola and Arabic.



TONY VACCA Zen Rant

CD includes performances by:

Gokh-bi System
West African Hip Hop

Tim Moran
saxophones

Massamba Diop
tama drum

Abiodun Oyewole
of The Last Poets

Steve Leicach
percussion

Included in the CD are performances by:

Gokh-bi System: A Senegalese troupe whose music ranges from West African hip-hop to ancient praise songs.

Abiodun Oyewole: An original member of The Last Poets, he is regarded as one of the founding fathers of what rap was always supposed to be.

Barou Sall: Praise singer and master of the Xalam, ancient predecessor of the banjo.

Massamba Diop: Doctor of the Senegalese tama, or talking drum. He is an original member of Baaba

Maal's now famous Afro-pop group. Massamba brings his fiery Wolof rhythms to this already rhythm-wise project.

Tim Moran, Steve Leicach, Joe Sallins: All long term members of Tony Vacca's World Rhythms Ensemble, they play saxophone, percussion and electric bass respectively, and along with Tony Vacca create an innovative confluence of Jazz and World Music as the foundation for the Zen Rant project.

Omar
Senegalese praise singer

Joe Sallins
electric bass

Barou Sall
xalam, voice

WORLD RHYTHMS
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RHYTHM GRIOTS

TONY VACCA AND MASSAMBA DIOP

RECORDED IN SENEGAL AND AMERICA
WITH TIM MORAN, STEVE LEICACH, JOE SALLINS, SEKOU SYLLA, ASSANE DIOP,
OMAR AND GOKH-BI SYSTEM

RHYTHM GRIOTS

Recorded in Senegal and America, Rhythm Griots is all about the explosion of interest in World Music, and specifically the rhythmic common ground between Jazz, hip-hop, and contemporary West African music. Rhythm Griots...rhythm storytellers, begins with the collaboration of Tony Vacca and Massamba Diop, and includes Vacca's World Rhythms Ensemble along with several West African players. These include a Senegalese hip-hop troupe called Gokh-bi System, tama drummer Assane Diop, praise singer Omar, and Sekou Sylla on djembe. It's a contemporary application of ancient forms, and it rocks in today's world as well as it would have long ago.



NEW FROM TONY VACCA

RHYTHM MISSION



TONY VACCA
AND THE WORLD
RHYTHMS
ENSEMBLE

RHYTHM
MISSION

FEATURING
MASSAMBA
DIOP

TAMA DRUMMER FOR BAABA MAAL

TIM MORAN
STEVE LEICACH
JOE SALLINS

RHYTHM MISSION

A hard-hitting earthy fusion of Jazz and World Music. This CD features Tony Vacca's original **World Rhythms Ensemble**, along with special guest, **Massamba Diop** the masterful tama drummer for Afro-pop superstar, Baaba Maal. The central force of Rhythm Mission is Vacca's driving balafon rhythms and melodies. But at the same time the CD's strength is the mix of tradition and innovation with a cast of strong players who have a long history of collaboration. They use their considerable skills to keep the music in a powerful, intoxicating groove, with no compromise to their individual brilliance.

"Blending rhythms that span cultures and continents, Vacca's Rhythm Mission is yet another of his sterling efforts. Much of the magic comes courtesy of his work on the balafon, an ancient African instrument that preceded the xylophone. Collaborating again with saxophonist **Tim Moran**, as well as a first-rate band anchored by bassist **Joe Sallins** and Baaba Maal tama drummer **Massamba Diop**, the ensemble weaves wonder...Adding fuel to the fire are a few surprising vocals, giving cuts such as "Tama Doctor" a funky, fun, hip-hop groove. That kind of eclecticism is what has always set Vacca apart from the crowd, but it's the airtight interplay between musicians that breathes life into this set."