

Ali Farka Touré - Niafunke (1999)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Ali's Here* 2. *Allah Uya* 3. *Mali Dje* 4. *Saukare* [play](#) 5. *Hilly Yoro* 6. *Tulumba* 7. *Instrumental* 8. *Asco* 9. *Jangali Famata*

[play](#)

10. *Howkouna* 11. *Cousins* 12. *Pieter Botha*

Personnel: Acoustic Guitar – Affel Bocoum (tracks: 5, 9), Ali Farka Touré Backing Vocals [Chorus] – Djeneba Doukoure (tracks: 2 to 4, 10), Fatoumata Traore (tracks: 2 to 4, 10), Hamidou Sare (tracks: 2 to 4, 10), Hamma Sankare (tracks: 1, 2, 5, 6, 8 to 10) Djembe – Souleye Kane (tracks: 1 to 3, 5, 6, 9, 10) Electric Guitar – Ali Farka Touré Guitar [Njurkle Traditional Guitar] – Yoro Cisse (tracks: 2, 10) Percussion – Ali Farka Touré (tracks: 4) Percussion [Calabash] – Hamma Sankare (tracks: 1, 2, 5, 6, 8 to 10) Producer – Nick Gold Violin [Njarka] – Ali Farka Touré (tracks: 9), Guidado Diallo (tracks: 2, 4, 10) Vocals – Affel Bocoum (tracks: 5, 9), Ali Farka Touré Recorded in Niafunké, Mali

Malian guitarist Ali Farka Toure's music has always managed global travel with ease and musical grace, shrinking the miles between Western Africa and the Mississippi Delta and seemingly visiting every city in between. Toure has received his share of accolades for blurring the lines between his contemporary/traditional fingerpicking style and "country blues." Toure has routinely collaborated with musicians from other cultures and musical genres, most notably the prolific and internationally influenced Ry Cooder on their widely acclaimed 1994 album *Talking Timbuktu*. He establishes a firm aesthetic residence on Niafunké, his first and most welcome CD in five years. Niafunké was recorded using a state-of-the-art portable studio in Toure's home village of Niafunke, which clearly lends a decisive authentic flavor and sense of musical place to the disc. Each tune is a lithe and resonant labyrinth of call-and-response patterns: a fingerpicked guitar speaks to a one-stringed njarka fiddle, calabash pummelings weave into those of the conga drums, and a lively small chorus answers Toure's authoritative lead vocals. A couple of the best cuts include "Ali's Here" and "Saukare." A beautifully rendered and intoxicating record. --- Becky Byrkit, Rovi

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This record is more real, more authentic. It was recorded in the place where the music belongs - deep Mali. We were in the middle of the landscape which inspired the music and that in turn inspired myself and the musicians. My music is about where I come from and our way of life and it is full of important messages for Africans. In the West perhaps this music is just entertainment and I don't expect people to understand. But I hope some might take the time to listen and learn. —Ali Farka Touré

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