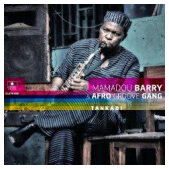
Mamadou Barry & Afro Groove Gang - Tankadi (2016)



1.Saramaya 5:40 2.Mousso Kelen 6:00 3.Afro Blues 3:50 4.Félenko 7:48 5.Café Café 4:57 6.Tankadi 3:48 7.Soumbara 5:50 8.Gonga 3:36 9.Kankalabé 5:46 10.African Groove 3:37 11.Djérélélé 4:37 Mamadou Barry - tenor saxophone, soprano saxophone, flute Mamadou Diabate - guitar Malick Conde - guitar Mohamed Kouyate - bass Ibrahima “Rizo” Bangoura - vocals Lamine Conde - djembe Emile Biayenda - percussion Ansoumane Kaloga - drums

Saxophonist Mamadou Barry hails from Guinea in West Africa. ‘Tankadi’ is a fine Afro Jazz track with Hi Life flavours and there is a great take on ‘Afro Blue’. The album’s African influences are strong and diverse with elements of Afro Beat, Manu Dibango style Funk and Hi Life. Delightful and a tad different. ---soulbrother.com

Saxophonist Mamadou Barry is one of those West African golden age musicians who keeps going like the Energizer bunny. He’s best known for Kaloum Star, a jazzy, hard-driving, criminally under-appreciated band that he founded in Conakry in 1969. He’s also worked with the female orchestra Les Amazones De Guinee and briefly with the granddaddy of Guinee’s national orchestras, Bembeya Jazz. With little fanfare he released his debut solo album in 2009 and here’s its excellent follow-up. This band is a bit more mannered than Kaloum Star, which was thrilling in the way it sounded like it could run off the rails at any time; the playing here is solid, with strong jazz and R&B influences. Track 1 kicks things off in a cool Afro-funk vein; 2 and 4 marry classic Bembeya-style grooves with pop-slap bass flourishes and some tasty sax and flute playing. The Afro Groove Gang is as fluent in salsa Senegalaise as in funk and jazz – 5 sounds like an unknown track from the Orchestra Baobab catalog. And 8 is West African neo-traditional music played straight, without the Western flavorings. This album kept a smile on

my face from beginning to end. ---globalagogo.com

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