



THE PROJECT

Most people do not know that the name Diallo is a prominent West African name and originates from Senegal, among other countries in that region. Claude Diallo was given this name through his Senegalese step-grandfather, who adopted his father during the second world war in France. Since childhood Claude feels connected to African culture through his uncles and aunts. But only in 2023 Claude was invited to Senegal to perform a Tribute concert to Randy Weston at the St. Louis Jazz Festival. There he met Djiby Diabate, a famous balafon player and after their performance at the festival, a musical friendship evolved in which the two music cultures from Western European lyricism, mixed with American Jazz roots and West African music traditions. This collaboration is unique and the combination of balafon with grand piano creates an unheard sound.

Soon several tours were organized in Europe, which led to a recording of their debut album SUNU TRIO in 2025. The album was released in March 2026 (physically) and in August 2026 (digitally). Aminata Khass, the wife of Djiby Diabate and a popular singer in Senegal joined the duo and toured with a band, consisting of Swiss bass player Gabriel Meyer and drummer Emanuel Riederer. Their live-stream recording of March 2026 in Chur at Handmade Music Studios of Andy Reich was well received and can be watched on Youtube.

THE MUSICIANS

Djiby Diabate

Balafon

Senegalese balafon virtuoso Djiby Diabate masterfully bridges the gap between traditional Mandinka music and contemporary jazz. His innovative approach to the balafon, a quintessentially West African instrument, has earned him international recognition.

His talent has taken him to stages throughout Europe, Asia, and America, where his performances have left an indelible impression. Notably, he has shared the stage with musical legends such as Richard Bona, Salif Keita, Youssou N'Dour, and Oumou Sangaré. Diabate's concerts are not just performances; they are profound musical experiences that celebrate his roots while pushing the boundaries of what the balafon can achieve.

Claude Diallo

Piano

Internationally acclaimed jazz pianist Claude Diallo travels the globe, captivating cosmopolitan audiences with his music. With his trio Claude Diallo Situation, he has released several albums, won numerous awards, and performed at jazz festivals and venues in Europe, America, and Asia.

His early love for jazz was born through the music of Oscar Peterson, and after intensive studies at the Berklee College of Music in Boston and the Aaron Copland School of Music in New York, Claude Diallo started his career in the city that never sleeps and stayed there for eleven years, working with the best musicians in his field. Under his motto "Traveling



with Music” he began touring outside his native Switzerland at the age of 20 and, through his curiosity, admiration, and passion for other cultures, built a worldwide network that is still growing.

Aminata Khass

Voice

Aminata Yade, known as Aminata Khass, is an African artist born in Saint-Louis, Senegal. A court clerk by training, she developed her passion for singing over the years, in spite of the difficulties and the social constraints around her. As the descendant of a noble family sung by the griots of the country, she could not be granted the right to sing.

Singing is a passion she has carried since early childhood, and she has made it a duty, a vehicle for social and economic engagement in the life of her society. Her work often takes up the cause of women, the right of children to an education, the struggle against irregular emigration, and solidarity with the poorest and with women held in prisons and correctional houses.

Her meeting with Claude Diallo and Djiby Diabate led to her collaboration on the album SUNU Trio and to her part in the album’s promotional tour in Europe. Aminata has two albums to her name: YEURMANDE, released in Senegal in 2020, and MÉLODIES, released digitally in Spain in 2022.

Gabriel Meyer

Electric bass, for concerts in Switzerland

Gabriel Meyer (born 1980) is a guitarist and bassist with impressive musical flair. His concert tours have taken him to Japan, Germany, and Switzerland. He also composes music for theater, jazz, and world music. After studying classical guitar in Winterthur, he has intensively explored foreign cultures and performed with musicians from West African, Middle Eastern, and Mediterranean countries. In 2010, as bassist in his working band “Rosset Meyer Geiger”, he received the Japanese “Hihyo Award” for the best jazz album of the year.

Emanuel Riederer

Drums, for concerts in Switzerland

Emanuel Riederer is a Swiss drummer and producer. As the MD and drummer of the hip-hop combo Kuchikäschtli, he has played all of Switzerland’s festivals and clubs and contributed to their albums. Based in St. Gallen, his music has taken him to New York, Dakar, and Conakry.

As a producer, he has worked with UK soul star Omar and French rap star Disiz, among others. As the lead singer of NOUMUSO (nouvelle musique solar), he has pursued the vision of combining traditional African instruments such as the kora, djembe, and kalimba with jazz harmonies and hip-hop beats since 2012. In 2021 “FREEQUENCY OF DA SUN” was released on Sogue Records, featuring 17 musicians from Guinea, Senegal, South Africa and Switzerland, including Nduduzo Makhathini, pianist and Blue Note Records artist from South Africa. In 2023, he presented his music documentary FREEQUENCY OF DA SUN with director Jonathan Owadja.

Claude Diallo	claudediallojazz@gmail.com
+41 77 506 68 27	www.claudediallo.com

