

Kouyaté-Neerman
Kangaba
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Kangaba – the debut album from **David Neerman** (vibraphones) and **Lansiné Kouyaté** (balafon).

On one side we have the 'lunar poet' of the vibraphone, **David Neerman**, well known across Europe's creative scene. He is equally at home in the evanescent universe of Korean chanteuse Youn Sun Nah as he is in the spontaneous, urban slam of Anthony Joseph & the Spasm Band, contemporary post-jazz, or the thousand-year-old poetry of Mandinka music. With a hunger for all kinds of music from Morton Feldman to Sonic Youth, he is a musician who can fit in almost anywhere.

On the other side, **Lansiné Kouyaté**, a Maestro of Mali's music and an undisputed master of the balafon, "the classical piano of Africa" (dixit Neerman). As a child prodigy (with a Griot mother, and a father who played the balafon), he was enrolled by the National Orchestra of Mali when barely ten and was then hired by Salif Keita. He has partnered some of the the greatest names in West African music from Baaba Maal to Mory Kanté, but he is also a bold experimenter who has adapted the ancestral sounds of his instrument to the most diverse languages to be found in contemporary music, from Béjart's ballets to Joe Zawinul, via the rappers of Positive Black Soul, the Cuban music of Omar Sosa or the "Red Earth" Mali project helmed by Dee Dee Bridgewater.

Kouyaté and **Neerman** met in 2003 and hit it off instantly, They found the means to make these two musical cousins, the balafon and vibraphone - two instruments so close, yet far apart in terms of tessitura, sound, technique, history and imagination – ring together collectively. Over long hours of improvisation the two musicians would exchange ideas, progressively laying down the base for a mutant universe of sound whose process was totally organic.

Accompanying them on this recording are bassist **Ira Coleman** (Dee Dee Bridgewater, Laurent de Wilde) , drummer **Laurent Robin** (Arthur H, Bernard Lubat), and Malian singer **Mamani Keita** on the magnificent title "Touma". With this album, their first, **Kouyaté & Neerman** unveil new territory that is both authentic and innovative, a work of poetic power that is absolutely stunning.

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