



# DIALI CISSOKHO & KAIRA BA

**Cissokho & Kaira Ba create a universally appealing sound full of bright tones and driving polyrhythm.” — *Paste Magazine***

**Diali Cissokho has a commanding voice, and excellent kora skills; he is clearly a great composer with a visionary approach to the integration of other genres with his Senegalese roots. —*Songlines***

Diali Cissokho & Kaira Ba ecstatically explore the spiritual songs, stories, and rhythms of Senegal’s millennia-old Mandé culture. Cissokho comes from a long line of prominent griots who are entrusted to maintain a West African village’s genealogies and important ceremonial affairs through song. Cissokho and his band, Kaira Ba, effortlessly integrate the traditional sounds of the kora with a modern rush of electric guitar and an exuberant rhythm section. Together, Diali Cissokho & Kaira Ba sustain one of West Africa’s most expressive legacies with their own energetic interpretations.

Kaira Ba has produced three full length albums, toured extensively in the US, and traveled twice as a band to Senegal. In 2014, Kaira Ba was nominated for the prestigious continent-wide All Africa Music Award (AFRIMA) in the category “Best African Group” for their album *The Great Peace*. In 2018 the band released its most ambitious album to date, *Routes*, which was recorded alongside a broad cast of guests in both North Carolina and Senegal. The album was met with critical acclaim upon its release.

Kaira Ba is committed to sharing its story and music in the name of cross-cultural learning, believing that music has the power to transgress borders and serve as an important resource for education, restoration and healing.

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## QUICK FACTS

- Home base: Chapel Hill, NC/Senegal
- Touring Config: solo (Diali Keba Cissokho, kora) and quintet
- Ticket Prices: \$18-\$40
- Current Album: *Routes* (2018)
- Wide variety of workshops and educational outreach available

