

## Dialogues in Sound

Tuesday 11 March, 7:30pm

Adelaide Town Hall

Duration: 1hr 10mins, no interval

**Trio Da Kali (Mali)**

Hawa Kassé Mady Diabaté, Voice

Fodé Lassana Diabaté, Balafon

Mamadou Kouyaté, Bass ngoni

**Australian String Quartet (Australia)**

Dale Barltrop, Violin

Francesca Hiew, Violin

Christopher Cartlidge, Viola

Michael Dahlenburg, Cello

**Peni Candra Rini (Indonesia)**

Voice, Gamelan

**Vân-Ánh Võ (Vietnam/USA)**

Voice, Đàn bầu, Đàn tranh

**Dialogues In Sound** is a dazzling evening of music both familiar and explorative, with a virtuosic lineup of musicians from this year's *Horizons: Chamber Landscapes* program.

This eclectic ensemble of music artists from across the world explore the meeting points between the various landscapes of their craft. Exceptional instrumentalists and singers from Australia, Vietnam, Mali and Indonesia share the stage for astonishing interpretations and reinventions of western classical music – including works by Satie, Mahler, Purcell and Bach – alongside traditional music from each of their counties.

Joyful, collaborative and profound, in a world when national divides so often separate us, this concert seeks to establish how, through music, both similarities and differences can be celebrated; how coming together we can create something much greater than we ever could alone.

## **Trio Da Kali**

Trio Da Kali is a group of outstanding musicians from the Mande culture of southern Mali, who come from a long line of distinguished griots (specialist hereditary musical artisans). They are a newly formed group, although they have known each other for many years - and they play Mande griot music like no one else. Their aim is to bring to the forefront the neglected repertoires and playing styles of the griots.

## **Hawa Kassé Mady Diabaté | Voice**

Hawa Kasse Mady Diabate is undoubtedly Mali's finest female voice today, revered at home for her knowledge of repertoire and for her powerful, clear and expressive voice, rooted in the tradition of Kela, a village in southwest Mali famous for its griot music, where she grew up. She is the daughter of Mali's most celebrated male singer, Kasse Mady Diabate – guardian of Kela's special tradition - and the niece of Mali's best-known female singer and composer, the late Sira Mory Diabate. When she first met David Harrington, first violinist of the Kronos Quartet, she sang for him the praise song, Da Kali. Harrington stood transfixed, and then said, "that's the closest I've ever got to the voice of Mahalia Jackson!"

## **Fodé Lassana Diabaté | Balafon**

Lassana Diabate, the musical director of Trio Da Kali, is a virtuoso balafon player who comes originally from Guinea, where the balafon originates. The balafon as an instrument type played by griots dates back at least to the 13th century. Lassana began playing balafon at the age of 5 at home in Conakry with his father, Djelisory Diabate, a master balafon player, from Kindia, some 150 kms inland. Lassana later apprenticed himself to some of the celebrated balafon masters such as the late, great El Hadj Djeli Sory Kouyate, also from Kindia, as well as the late Alkali Camara. To this day, Lassana cherishes the now rare recordings of his mentors, whose unique styles continue to be an important inspiration to him. He settled in Mali in the late 1980s after being invited to join the band of the diva Ami Koita, and has since recorded with many of Mali's top artists such as Toumani Diabate, Salif Keita, Babani Koné, Tiken Jah Fakoly, and Bassekou Kouyaté; he was also a member of the Grammy-nominated Mali-Cuba collaboration, Afrocubism.

## **Mamadou Kouyaté | Bass ngoni**

Mamadou Kouyate is the eldest son of ngoni wizard Bassekou Kouyate. He grew up in Bamako playing the ngoni with his father and the extended family, and is astonishingly creative in the bass lines he produces on this four-string bass string instrument. He is currently touring as a member of Bassekou Kouyate's new group, Ngoniba.

## **Australian String Quartet**

Since 1985, the Australian String Quartet (ASQ) has created unforgettable string quartet performances for audiences around the world. Dedicated to musical excellence of the highest standard, they aim to create chemistry and amplify intimacy through experiences that connect people with music. From their home base at the University of Adelaide's Elder Conservatorium of Music, they reach out across the globe to engage people with an outstanding program of performances, workshops, commissions, digital content and education projects. Their distinct sound is enhanced by a matched set of 18th-century Guadagnini instruments, handcrafted by Giovanni Battista Guadagnini between c.1743 and 1784 in Turin and Piacenza, Italy. These precious instruments are on loan for their exclusive use through the generosity of UKARIA.

**Dale Barttrop** plays a 1784 Guadagnini Violin, Turin

**Francesca Hiew** plays a 1748-49 Guadagnini Violin, Piacenza

**Chris Cartlidge** plays a 1783 Guadagnini Viola, Turin

**Michael Dahlenburg** plays a c.1743 Guadagnini Violoncello, Piacenza, 'Ngeringa'

## **Peni Candra Rini | Voice, Gamelan**

Dr. Peni Candra Rini, PhD (b. 1983) is a renowned Javanese singer, composer, and faculty member at the Indonesian Institute of the Arts. The Kronos Quartet has described her as "one of the world's greatest singers." She is a master of several traditional forms and is regarded as one of Indonesia's most daring young composers, one of only a handful of female composers in the majority Muslim nation. She has performed extensively internationally, including several world tours as the featured singer for Robert Wilson's *I La Galigo*. She is a recipient of grants from the Asian Cultural Council, is a two-time grantee of the US State Department's One Beat and Fulbright programs, and in 2022 was named an Aga Khan Foundation laureate of the arts. In 2023 she became the first woman to be commissioned to compose a work for the Mangkunegaran court of Central Java and in 2024 was bestowed the court name Raden Nganten Tumenggung, the highest honor offered by the Raja. In 2024 she completed a suite for string quartet commissioned by the Kronos Quartet and Carnegie Hall. Entitled *Segara Gunung* the thirty-minute work concerns the impacts of climate change on the Indonesian archipelago, and has been performed by Kronos on major stages throughout the US and Europe. In 2024 she published two albums on the New Amsterdam label, in collaboration with Shahzad Ismaily, Andy McGraw, and members of Deerhoof, featuring her experimental compositions for Javanese and Western ensembles.

## **Vân-Ánh Võ | Voice, Dan Bau, Dan Tranh**

**Vân-Ánh Vanessa Võ** began studying the đàn tranh from the age of four and graduated with distinction from the Vietnam National Academy of Music in 1995. That same year, Vân-Ánh won the Championship Title at the National Đàn Tranh Competition and began touring internationally. She has performed in over 25 countries and presented her music in some of the most prestigious venues in the U.S., including Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, NPR, Lincoln Center, the Olympic Games 2012 Music Festival, as well as countless community hall workshops and gatherings. Since settling in the San Francisco Bay Area in 2001, Vân-Ánh has

focused on collaborating with musicians across different music genres to create new works, bringing Vietnamese traditional music to a wider audience, and preserving her cultural legacy through teaching.

Vân-Ánh is co-composer of the Oscar® nominated and Sundance Grand Jury Prize Best Documentary winner *Daughter from Danang*. She also co-composed the Emmy® Award-winning film and soundtrack for *Bolinao 52*. Her latest CD, *Three-Mountain Pass*, was selected as one of NPR's Best 10 World Music CDs of 2013.