

BÉLA FLECK → THE AFRICA PROJECT

Bassekou Kouyate & Ngoni Ba
→ Anania Ngoliga with John Kitime



“All the jams are fabulously stirring...”
THE VILLAGE VOICE

“Together they evoke naked humanity, tears, laughter, passion and the unalloyed bliss of making music.”
AUSTIN AMERICAN STATESMAN

“Mesmerizing...”
AINTITCOOLNEWS

“An important work Of artistic memory and conscience.”
LOS ANGELES TIMES

“It’s about damn time someone drew the line back!”
PETE SEEGER

amazing collaborations
with african musicians

BASSEKOU KOUYATE → (mali) is one of the true masters of the ngoni, the ancient forerunner of the banjo found throughout West Africa. The name of his stellar band, **NGONI BA**, translates as “Big Ngoni.” although after this tour of the Africa Project another translation might be “Big Banjo.” The repertoire they play is from the region of Segou, the heart of Bambara culture. Unlike Mandinka griot music, Bambara music is as close to the blues as you can get in Africa. **ANANIA NGOLIGA** → (tanzania) is a blind multi-instrumentalist and singer, for The Africa Project he plays the Wagogo thumb piano, a deep-toned instrument called ilimba. Wagogo traditional music has a distinctively mysterious scale. His performances with Bela Fleck were called “the spiritual high point of the program,” by **BANNING EYRE** of Afropop Worldwide. **JOHN KITIME** → (tanzania) is a guitarist and singer who has led the acclaimed Kilimanjaro band for over 30 years. John is also the head of the Tanzanian Musician’s Union with a deep knowledge of the history of Tanzanian music. For this reason, Bela tapped him to serve as the field producer for the award-winning film, **THROW DOWN YOUR HEART**; the inspiration for this tour.

