

# Béla Fleck Toumani Diabate

**BÉLA FLECK** Béla Fleck is often considered the premier banjo player in the world. While still in high school he began experimenting with playing bebop jazz on his banjo, mentored by fellow banjo renegade Tony Trischka. In 1980, he released his first solo album, *CROSSING THE TRACKS*, with material that ranged from straight ahead bluegrass to Chick Corea's "Spain." In 1989 he formed the genre-busting Flecktones, with members equally talented and adventurous as himself.

**TOUMANI DIABATE** More than any other artist, Toumani Diabaté is responsible for introducing the kora—a 21-string harp unique to West Africa to audiences around the world. Aside from being a player of exceptional virtuosity and creativity, Diabaté plays a vital role as bandleader, teacher, musical conservationist and composer in the capital city of Bamako, Mali, where he has lived all his life. Diabaté is at the vanguard of a new generation of Malian griots who are constantly looking for ways of modernizing and still honoring their traditional music.



**Fleck/Diabate Duets::  
select dates open  
summer 2009**



## Collaborations with Amazing African Musicians

"The results are wondrous..." **USA TODAY** "mesmerizing." **KANSAS CITY STAR** "a more immediate encounter with too-often-overlooked African music." **NASHVILLE SCENE** "Toumani took to the stage, bathing the audience in heavenly, mysterious sound and creating a musical labyrinth in which you could lose yourself." **READING EAGLE**