

WOLF TRAP FOUNDATION FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
"WOLFIE PRESENTS"

The Language of the Djembe
Amadou Kouyate, Wolf Trap Teaching Artist

Put on your watching eyes, turn up your listening ears, and adjust your thinking cap! It's time to learn the language of the djembe drum. If you don't have a drum, a table, container, or your lap will do!



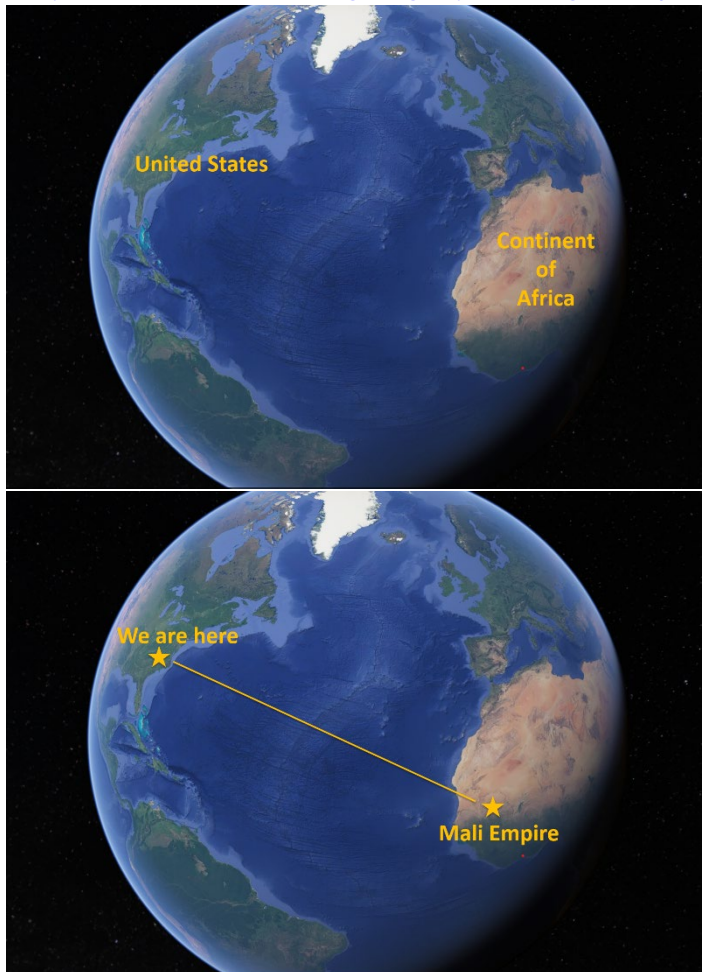
To Prepare for This Performance

- **Have everybody join!** This performance is highly interactive and will include something for everyone! We encourage you to share this experience with friends, family, and educators of all ages.
- **Join at your own pace.** Don't worry if a child chooses not to participate in the whole experience, or is shy at first. They will likely be encouraged to join in if they see others participating.
- **Find a drum.** You can use your lap, a container, a table, or a drum to follow along with Amadou!

Images

The djembe drum (pronounced *JEM-bay*) originated from the Baga people (of present-day Republic of Guinea), however emerged throughout West Africa during the expansion of the Mali empire in the 12th Century. More information about the Mali Empire can be found here:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/mali-empire/>





The **djembe** is one of West Africa's best known instruments. This goblet-shaped drum is traditionally carved from a single piece of African hardwood and topped with an animal skin as a drumhead, most commonly goatskin.

Songs

“Djembe Drumming by Amadou Kouyate” by Amadou Kouyate

Download for free at the link below:

<https://education.wolftrap.org/content/stages-learning-drum-talk-i-can-do-it>

“Nanfoule by Amadou Kouyate” by Amadou Kouyate

Download for free at the link below:

<https://education.wolftrap.org/content/stages-learning-create-many-new-great-adaptations>

Resources and Books

Kojo For Kids: Musician And Storyteller Amadou Kouyate, <https://thekoionnamdishow.org/audio/#/shows/2020-08-31/kojo-for-kids-musician-and-storyteller-amadou-kouyate/117282/@00:00>

Virginia Standards of Learning, Mali: Ancient Crossroads of Africa, <https://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/history/mali/index.shtml>

Burns, Khephra. *Mansa Musa: The Lion King of Mali*. (Leo and Diane Dillon, Illus.). Gulliver Books, 2001.

Wisniewski, David. *Sundiata, Lion King of Mali*. Clarion, 1992.

Artist Biography

Amadou Kouyate has been a Teaching Artist with the Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts since 2018.

Continuing the musical lineage of his father's heritage, Amadou performs a musical montage on the 21-string kora and rhythmic presentations on djembe and koutiro drums. His repertoire ranges from traditional songs of the 13th century to contemporary original compositions incorporating blues and jazz riffs.

In addition to his solo work, Amadou collaborates and performs with artists nationally and internationally, also with his world rock ensemble Proper SKANKS, and with Farafina Kan, WEEDOU Everything! and the Kouyate Family/Memory of African Culture. Selected credits include performances at The Kennedy Center, Smithsonian Institution, Bristol Academy and Isle of White (England), Tim Festival (Brazil), and Baltimore Rhythm Festival.

He was an Adjunct Lecturer of African music and ethnomusicology at the University of Maryland as well as Director of the African Drum Ensemble. He has also served as an Artist-in-Residence with both Montgomery College and the renowned Strathmore Music Center and is currently on faculty at UMBC and Goucher College.

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