



MANDINGO AMBASSADORS “Radio NYC – Live at WKCR” CTN-004

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The great sound of Guinean dance bands is reborn in America

Recorded live at the studios of the legendary Columbia University radio station WKCR, oldest FM station in the World, *Radio NYC* has an immediate and compelling feel that harks back to an era of live broadcasts. The music feels as though we were listening to a local dancehall/bar performance in Conakry, Guinea. This is a group that projects its vibrancy live and it translates completely on to this CD.

The Mandingo Ambassadors includes three *griots*: band leader and veteran guitarist Mamady “Djelike” Kouyate, the charismatic young vocalist/dancer Ismael “Bon Fils” Kouyate, and journeyman rhythm guitarist Mamady Kourouma. Also included are some of the best talent on the New York City African scene: drummer Andy Algire, bassist Nicholas Cudahy, wind players Oran Etkin* on tenor sax and clarinet, and Sylvain Leroux on alto sax , flute, and Fula flute.

The group has been anchoring Wednesday nights at Barbes, a well-known Brooklyn venue. Attending one of these shows, New York Times journalist Ben Ratliff was moved to write: *“The music of the Mandingo Ambassadors has been structured to make you feel good. It puts dazzling vocal and guitar patterns over a rhythm section that is like a perfect system... It could have gone on forever, and that was a nice thought.”* (New York Times, October 10, 2008).

* Oran Etkin appears courtesy of Motema Records

Mulatta/Completelly Nuts Recordss

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