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## WEST AFRICAN VIRTUOSOS TOUMANI AND SIDIKI DIABATÉ APPEAR AT BING CONCERT HALL, SEPTEMBER 28

*Father and son duo play Malian music flavored with American soul from their recent release  
'Toumani & Sidiki'*

Stanford, CA, September 5, 2014— Two of Africa's greatest musicians, **Toumani and Sidiki Diabaté** are Malian masters of the kora, the 21-string West African harp whose shimmering tones have been plucked by generations of griots, or cultural storytellers. In a rare pairing between father and son, the duo will appear at Stanford's Bing Concert Hall on **Sunday, September 28 at 7:00 p.m.**

The innovative Toumani Diabaté simultaneously plays Malian music flavored with American soul. His collaborators have included Taj Mahal, Björk and the late Ali Farka Touré, with whom he won the 2005 Grammy Award for *In the Heart of the Moon*. His latest recording with his son, *Toumani & Sidiki*, was released in 2014 and has already been described as “the finest Toumani collaboration since his classic work with Ali Farka Touré” (*The Guardian*).

Their repertoire is based on a combination of obscure, almost forgotten kora pieces and a new look at some Mande classics from Mali. “We’re not going backwards, trying to play just how my father and grandfather did these songs,” says Toumani. With this album Toumani wanted “to show the positive side of Mali,” he says, “to reassert the legacy of a country with access to untold musical riches.”

Descended from a line of West Africa's Mandé people stretching back seven hundred years, the names Toumani and Sidiki are significant names in the annals of African music. Toumani's father, Sidiki senior, recorded the first ever kora album, the classic *Mali: Ancient Strings*, in 1970, unwrapping the instruments potential as a virtuosic lead instrument. Toumani has taken it further, weaving together bass lines, ancient melodies and astonishing improvisations to create a kaleidoscope of musical colours. Since recording the first solo kora album in 1988, he has built an impressive array of fans along

the way, including President Barack Obama, who chose Toumani's collaboration with Taj Mahal as his all-time favourite album.

Tickets for **Toumani and Sidiki Diabate** range from \$30-\$60 for adults and are \$15 for all Stanford students. Tickets are available at the Bing Concert Hall Ticket Office, by phone at **650-724-2464 (BING)** or online at **<http://live.stanford.edu>**. The box office is located at 327 Lasuen Street. Regular hours are Tuesday-Friday from 12:00-5:00 p.m.

### **ABOUT BING CONCERT HALL**

Bing Concert Hall is located on the Stanford University campus at 327 Lasuen Street on the corner of Lasuen and Campus Dr. Parking on campus is free of charge after 4:00 PM and on weekends at all times, and may be found in the Galvez Lot across Campus Drive from Bing Concert Hall. Maps and directions are available at <http://live.stanford.edu/Venues/parkingmapsdirections.php>.

### **ABOUT STANFORD LIVE**

Stanford Live is Stanford University's performing arts presenter and producer, committed to sharing, celebrating and advancing the art of live music, dance, theater, and opera. Stanford Live unites celebrated and emerging artists with the Stanford campus and greater Bay Area communities in a broad range of experiences that engage the senses and emotions, stimulate minds, and enrich lives. The organization values artistic vitality, learning and an inclusive community. In addition to its home in Bing Concert Hall, Stanford Live also presents performances at other campus venues including Memorial Auditorium, Memorial Church and Frost Amphitheater.

### **CALENDAR EDITORS NOTE:**

What: **Toumani Diabaté & Sidiki Diabaté**

When: Sunday, September 28, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen Street, Stanford University

Tickets: \$30-\$60 (\$15 for Stanford students)

Description: Two of Africa's greatest musicians, Toumani and Sidiki Diabaté—Malian masters of the kora—appear together at Bing Concert Hall.

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