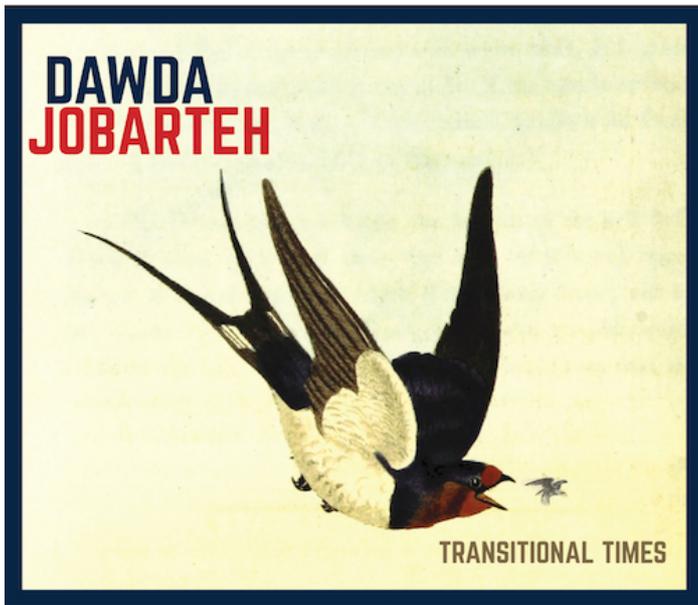


NEW RELEASE from STERNS MUSIC



DAWDA JOBARTEH

Title: **TRANSITIONAL TIMES**

Cat.No: STCD1128

Format: single album

Release date: 14th October, 2016



Although to meet him it might not be obvious, Dawda Jobarteh takes his *griot* heritage very seriously, and as the grandson of Alhaji Bai Konte and son of Amadou Bansang Jobarteh, he is at the epicentre of Gambia's musical aristocracy. Bai Konte was responsible for some of the classic *kora* repertoire still played today, and one of the first players to tour the USA as a solo artist. Amadou Bansang Jobarteh was the favoured musician of Gambia's first president, Dawda Jawara, after whom Dawda is named. But hereditary musicians from West Africa are not exactly uncommon, so what is it about Dawda that distinguishes him from his peers?

Dawda's home is now firmly in Denmark. Here he has married and set up house. Here he has swapped the wedding and circumcision ceremonies that his uncles Malamini Jobarteh and Dembo Konte performed in rural Gambia, for educational tours of Scandinavia with bassist Moussa Diallo, or free-jazz performances with drummer Stefan Pasborg. Here with his own group he has appeared at rock festivals such as Roskilde, and from here he has ventured around the world onto stages in East Africa and clubs in New Delhi, India.

Necessarily, Dawda's world view is modern and open-minded. His concerns are not the geneology of a local elite, but the impact of global economics on us all. *Bright Sky Over Monrovia* arose from a commission to write music for a theatrical production about blood diamonds. *Efo* concerns the frustration of nationally imposed border policies as they affect individuals. Yet his picture is never solely polemic. Whilst still a critic of polygamy, in *Mba Sina*, a song in homage to his mother's co-wife, he is able to voice nuances that allow a more gentle interpretation.

Today it's perhaps more common for some of these issues to be expressed by the new generation of African and South American hip hop artistes. But Dawda's music is still firmly rooted in a tradition and when it looks outward, it does so to the more organic realms of *jazz*. It's no accident that the album's title reflects that of one of its tracks, a version of John Coltrane's *Transition*, or that there is place for a free-wheeling improvisational duet between percussion and treated *kora*.

But ultimately *Transitional Times*, Dawda's second on Sterns Africa, is intensely personal. As Dawda himself notes, with most vocals and *kora* instrumentals recorded at home over several years, this "recording has been the soundtrack of my children and wife's dreams for many nights." We commend it to you.

Tracklist:

1. Winter Trees Stand Sleeping 02:20
2. Our Time In Tanjeh 03:00
3. Efo 04:49
4. Kaira 05:14
5. Transition 05:33
6. Mba Sina 06:15
7. All One 04:51
8. Jamming In The Fifth Dimension 05:34
9. Lullaby Med Jullie 03:09
10. Mama Sawo 03:43
11. Bright Sky Over Monrovia 04:26
12. Kanoo 00:48
13. Presenting The King 02:54
14. Dalua 03:45

Personnel:

Dawda Jobarteh: Kora, vocals & percussion
Preben Carlsen: Guitars
Jakob Dinesen: Saxophone
Nana Osibio, Preben Carlsen, Etienne M'Bappe,
Alain Perez, Moussa Diallo: Bass
Niclas Campagnol, Francis Kweku Osei: Drums
Salieu Dibba: Percussion
Jullie Hjetland Jensen: Additional vocals

Northern Light Gambian Night (2011)

"marvellous kora playing" *fRoots*
"an impressive debut" *London Evening Standard*
"an album of such delicacy and beauty" ***** *Songlines*
"a gorgeous synthesis of the old and the new" *AllAboutJazz*