



BALA-BILA: Balla Kouyate & Matchume Zango at the East-West Crossroads

BALA-BILA is an evening length production that brings together two African master musicians--Balla Kouyate on balafon and Matchume Zango on timbila, mbira, percussion and voice--through a live concert that is framed as an intercultural musical conversation woven together through a soundscape of pre-recorded interviews with the two artists. The production features Kouyate and Zango sharing the joy, beauty and complexity of exploring the mastery of their instruments but also provides an opportunity for the audience to get to know the artists as human beings, as artists, as cultural ambassadors, and as global citizens.

4 Minute Promo Video Here: <https://vimeo.com/762536199>

More Info:

Both the balafon (representing Mali, Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire) and the timbila (Mozambique) are part of the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (tim-bila is plural, and m-bila is singular). Kouyate and Zango are leading exponents of their respective instruments, and known for preserving, advancing and contemporizing their rich musical traditions.

[Balla Kouyate](#) is a renowned balafon player and “djeli” who is originally from Mali and currently based in the U.S. Kouyate teaches at the prestigious New England Conservatory of Music, has collaborated with artists such as Yo Yo Ma and Andjelique Kidjo, and is recognized by the U.S. National Endowment for the Arts as an NEA National Heritage Fellow.

[Matchume Zango](#) is a master timbila player, percussionist, composer and producer from Maputo, Mozambique. He has a Masters Degree in Music Performance from the University of Cape Town, and has toured extensively throughout the world and collaborated extensively with local and international artists. Zango has received funding support from international donor agencies, and has built Nzango Artist Residency, a recording studio and artist residency where he collaborates with local and visiting artists.

Booking:

BALA-BILA is currently booking for Sept 15 - Oct 15, 2024 in the U.S. and Canada. Please contact Stephanie Scherpf at [Tertulia](mailto:stephanie@tertulia.world) at stephanie@tertulia.world or 617-775-3345.



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