

# NOUMOUCOUNDA



Noumoucounda was born in Dakar to a griot (or “djeli”) family originally hailing from Tambacounda. He never actually *learned* the kora; it was the blood in his veins, the air that he breathed. The rich Mandinka tradition flourished in his immediate family: uncles, cousins, brothers and sisters all received solid grounding in the kora, balafon, and djembe, as well as time-honored songs and dance routines. His mother was a singer, and his father, a kora player and an integral part of Senegal’s National Orchestra. Noumoucounda joined the Dakar Conservatory at the age of 20, where he focused on a traditional repertoire. However, his drive to cross boundaries led him to join Positive Black Soul in 1994, one of the pioneers in African rap, with whom he travelled the world for 20 years. He has since collaborated with many well-known artists, including Alpha Blondy, MC Solaar, Ernest Ranglin, Youssou N'Dour, and Stromae. Armed with his kora, his creative and contagious energy stirs emotions and conquers hearts. Noumoucounda truly encapsulates a new genre of versatile and modern artist —the urban griot.

In 2012, after playing kora with hip-hop acts focusing on digital production, he released his first solo album, *Faling* (meaning “sharing” in Bambara). The album was recorded live and gave pride of place to his musical virtuosity. He took *Faling* across the world, including China, Brazil, South Africa, the UK, and Canada.

In 2017, he created his own label and recording studio in Dakar - “Karantaba Records” - with his partner of 15 years, Fred Hirschy, a multi-instrumentalist, composer, arranger and producer for the likes of Tumi Molekane, Fredy Massamba, and Awadi. The studio has enabled Noumoucounda to work on his new album. After years of working on projects led by others, he can now enjoy the role of creative host. This album includes collaborations with Daara J Family and Positive Black Soul, but also traditional griots such as Djiby Dramé, Daba Seye, Mamy Kanouté, and Goundo Cissokho. The album is produced and arranged by Fred Hirschy, and includes lyrical collaborations penned by Xuman, Ndongo D, and Keyti. It is a mature work, underlining more complex and serious themes. An urban griot who cut his teeth in the world of modern music, he speaks of development and progress but also touches upon education and African women’s rights.

This album is an honest and holistic representation of Noumoucounda at his finest. Set in his studio, surrounded by his family and inner circle, he expresses himself in a way that is entirely authentic, earnest. True to the urban griot who birthed it, his sound bears the trappings of the modern world and of hip-hop, while ringing with the strength, maturity and depth of centuries of Mandinka tradition.

# DISCOGRAPHY

Solo album FALING



[www.noumoucounda.bandcamp.com](http://www.noumoucounda.bandcamp.com)

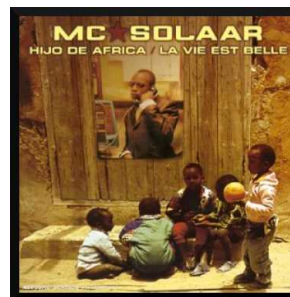
Collaborations (non exhaustive)



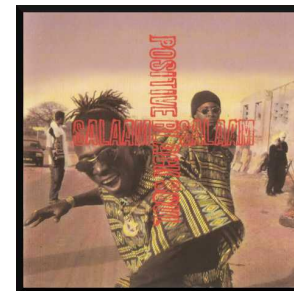
Stromae – Racine carrée



Alpha Blondy - Merci



Mc Solaar – Hijo de Africa



Positive Black Soul – Salaam

## PHOTOS (live)



**Past performances :** AlRumbo festival (Spain), Masa (Abidjan), Sauti za Busara (Zanzibar), Momo (London), Couleur café festival (Brussels), Mandela Day (Shangai), Roskilde (Denmark), SIM (Sao Paulo), etc.

# VIDEOS



*Clip YEWALA feat. Daara J Family*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dpn7NIXYz\\_w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dpn7NIXYz_w)



*Sakhodougou (live in Dakar)*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wcT1Q8CAB44>



*Iyaho (live in Dakar)*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FM-syDDrSVI>

# TECH RIDER

Noumoucounda offers different performance options, however he's open to receive and consider all offers :

- 1) POWER SET > 3-piece band : Noumoucounda (*kora/percussions/lead vocal*) + bass + drums
- 2) ATOMIC SET > 6-piece band : Noumoucounda + bass + drums + keys + percussions + backing vocal

*please contact us if you need the full tech rider*

## CONTACTS

Management :

[contact@karantabarecords.com](mailto:contact@karantabarecords.com)

tél : +221 77 850 22 37 (Senegal, WhatsApp))

tél : +41 79 280 37 40 (Switzerland)

Booking :

[info@skinfama.com](mailto:info@skinfama.com)

## ONLINE

[www.facebook.com/noumoucissoko](https://www.facebook.com/noumoucissoko)  
[noumoucounda.bandcamp.com](http://noumoucounda.bandcamp.com)