



# MANDING GROOVES

WEST AFRICAN MUSIC CONNECTIONS



**Kakande** is arguably the best, long-standing Manding, West African dance band outside of Africa since Bembeya Jazz. Kakande's music re-arranges traditional griot songs featuring the balafon, with modern instruments such as guitar, bass, and drum set, creating a contagious Manding Groove. The balafon is a 23-key wooden xylophone crafted by hand in the Guinean countryside. The music forms delightful, looping cross-rhythmic melodies that shift shapes as the musician emphasises different parts of the song. **Famoro Diouabté**, the band leader, is recognised as one of Africa's most talented and graceful balafonists alive today. Hailing from Conakry, Guinea, He comes from a long family lineage of griots (or jeli in Malinké), African oral historians and musicians who played in the royal courts since the 13th century. Based in New York City since 1999, Famoro mixes his profound and sacred West African musical tradition with some of the hottest musicians in New York today. His dance band, Kakande, plays regularly in Harlem at the Shrine World Music Café as well as in festivals throughout the city. Famoro has also played with world-famous Mory Kanté and Angélique Kidjo, and has performed in Carnegie Hall, Joe's Pub, and museums and universities across the country. Kakande will set the groove for an evening of splendor that will inspire its listeners to dance the night away.

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