



Association Mélomane des Amis du Grand Orchestre National de Gondwana

In the early 90s, with a **foldable travel cello** in his baggage, the cellist **Martin Müller** went on a **journey to Africa**, which took him amongst other countries to **Burkina Faso**. There he met the virtuoso balafonist and singer **Sibiri Dougoutigui Diabaté**. Years and several projects later, in 2010, the band AMAGONG started, completed by three musicians from Burkina Faso and Switzerland. The group toured twice in Switzerland and gave a couple of (festival)concerts in Burkina Faso. **In 2014**, the band has **released its album «AMAGONG»** that has been recorded in 2013 in Ouagadougou under adventurous conditions. In November it reached place 19 of the World Music Charts Europe.

The balafon and the voice are determining the sound of the group. The songs are largely African inspired and evoke the traditional music from the Mandingo area as well as West African dance grooves. At the same time they assimilate elements of jazz, of European classical or Latin-American music. It is this idiosyncratic integration of traditions, influences and styles, the unusual instrumentation, the voice of the jali (griot) lamenting and praising, the polyphonic backing vocals, the beautiful melodies, the original soloing, the abundance of different west African rhythms, it is all that, that gives to the band its distinctive sound and expression and that accounts for this **captivating version of a contemporary afro-fusion**.

Lineup

Sibiri Diabaté aka Dougoutigui	chromatic balafon, vocal
Hassan Dembélé	guitar, backing vocal
Martin Müller	el. 5-string cello
Willy Kotoun	percussion
Moïse Ouattara	drums, backing vocal

sound for sore ears

Martin Müller

+41 (0)78 70 50 125

martin@amagong.com

www.amagong.com

