

Farafina

Seidou Denbele interview

Transcribed and Translate by: Kassim Diallo

Ne togo ko Seydou Denbele. k abo Burkina.

[My name is Seidou Denbele. I am from Burkina.]

Ne ye foli kela le ye.

[I am an artist.]

N'ye foli da mine nin bini san kononton gnokon ye.

[I started music since the age of nine.]

N'tunbi an ka sya folike.

[I practice traditional music.]

An ka sya foli tun ye Bwaba folile ye.

[Our traditional music is the Bwaba music.]

N'ya le ke n'fe vilaji la.

[I have done that at my home in the village.]

Kabo vilaji la kana se yan yoro la n'nana yelema kado an ka Bambara kan na.

[When I left the village to arrive here I changed and I entered into our music in the Bamana (Jula) language.]

An ka Banbarankan n'ya le fo (en meme temps) n'ya le foli damine ka (commencer) ka dege ka to kaa dilan cogo dege fana kana se hake do ma.

[Our language Bamana, I have learned it and at the same time I started to sing and I got better until reaching a certain level.]

N'ya damine doni doni, n'ya le damine a ni bi ce a yi san mugan ani duru(25) ma gwen si san.

[I had started it little by little, from when I started it to now is about 25 years now.]

A dilan dege ka se ka dilan n'yan le damine a ni bi ce bi san mugan ma gwen na.

[Learning to compose and mastering this, (when) I started to now is twenty years.]

(Mais) ka (commencer) ka se ka fo a ni bi ce wo fana be se ka san mугan ani duru ma gwen na sisan.

[(But) in order to (begin) to speak (Bamana) to this day can also be about 25 years now.]

(Donc) ne ye foli damine nin bi ni san konoton ye.

[(So,) I started music when I was nine years old.]

(Donc) n’koni ne done foli la n’tun ma lo (peut-etre) a tun be se ka taama do la se n’sen koro wo ye taama min ka jan min danna ni Burkina ye.

[So, when I myself entered into music without knowing that maybe it could allow me to travel. I want to say that I have traveled far outside of Burkina.]

Foli a yen la se dugu caaman ma. N’te na dugu ni (citer) caaman (mais) a koni ye’n la se faragwe dugu caaman na fo ka n’segi ka na yan.

[Music has brought me to many countries. I do not want to cite these countries too much but it even has brought me to many white countries until I have returned here now.]

N’bi lama n’bi Burkina n’ka (interview) ni ke la.

[Today, I am in Burkina, I am doing this interview.]

N’be fe ka min fo foli ti fen kolon ye.

[What I want to say is that music is not useless.]

N’yi foli ni damine. Aye ko caaman yira n’na.

[I started music. It has taught me a lot of things.]

N’fana ma don folilan’tun maa...n’ma don folila ko (parce que) fen de ba kono n’soro la ka don.

[I also, I did not enter music...I had not...I did not enter into music because there is something in (it) and after I decided to do it.]

N’ya ye ... fe de ba kono....na fa ba kono n’soro ka do a la (voila).

[I saw...there are somethings in (it)...it is interesting and I decided to do it.]

N’dona a kono ni dusu le ye (parce que depuis) n’ka dogo n’ya damine ten de.

[I entered in with heart because I started when I was still small.]

Ala nana n' ke setigi ye. Fensorola a kono.

[God has made it so that I have the means (to live off music). I have found somethings in (it.)]

Nin ko fen sorola a kono, n'lon naa kono n'bi n'ka den baya balo o de konobi. N'yere n'bi balo o de kono bi.

[If I say that something have been found in (it), I have been known in (it), my family lives (of it) to this day. Me also, it is in (it) that I live today.]

(Donc) n'te se ka fo fen ma soro a kono.

[So, I cannot say that something is not found within.]

Fen sorola a kano.

[Something has been found within.]

Wole keera sababuye n'sera ka bo dugu ko kan fana. (donc) n'tese ka fo ko fen ma soro a kono.

[This has been the means that allows me to go beyond (my) country, too.]

(Donc) foli sababu wole ye wo be ke n'ye.

[So, music is the means that did all that for me.]

(Mais) sani n'ka foli damine cyen cyen na n'tun ma bila n'kun na ko foli a be se ka ko caaman gne n'ye.

[(But) before I started music, really I did not have in mind that music could take care of so many things for me.]

(Deja) n'ma damine wariko la; n'ma damine kalen kola.

[(Already,) I had not started it for money; I did not start it to use to be clever.]

N'ya damine (parce que) a tun bi n'dusukun na de.

[I started it because it was deep in my heart.]

Sani ne yere ka foli damine ne tun ma lon ko foli be se k'a ke.

[Even myself, before starting music, I did not know that music could do that.]

(Mais) bibina ma mogo caaman be yen...foli koni be dya dow ye u ba ye (parceque) mogo ka cya sisan wubi (voyager) a kono (effectivement).

[(But) to date, today there are a lot of people....the music has even pleased others because they see that there are numerous people that travel in (it) really.]

Ne tun ma wo, wo yoro nunu, (parceque) n'demiseni tuma ne tuma wo yoro nunun mir'a la.

[I hadn't...this part...because, when I was a child I had not count on this side of it.]

(Bon) ne ka kuma bi yoro mina kuma caaman ti n'fe.

[(Well,) what I mean I don't have much to say.]

(Donc) ne bi yoro mina bilamani n'sera ka fe min soro folila.

[So, the level that I have reached today; that is what I could find in music.]

Ni foli ti....na ti dusula, ni ...incomprehensible...se ka folilon.

[If the music is not...if it is not in your heart, if you do music to earn something, you cannot understand music.]

Foli yere be ten de (en realite meme).

[Music, in itself, is like that in reality.]

Fo foli ke I kanu ban, yere fana, ka kanu ka to I dusu la. Wola I be se ka foli lon.

[It's necessary that music loves you first too and that you love it and keep it deep in your heart.]

(sinon) ni ye foli kanu a soro yere kama I te se ka foli lon (parceque) foli ye f'I ka ke mu gnu bagale ye.

[If you like music in order to get something out of it, you cannot know music because music demands that you are someone that is very patient.]

F'I ka ke lon...ala ya barika se I ma lomin na a be bari la le.

[It's necessary...The day when God grants you His grace it will surprise you.]

(donc) ni I ya bila I kuna ko a nafa kama le: yake ni ma bamba I le te na se ka folike (parceque) waati jan bala...ibe se ka wati jan soro a kono ni ma here soro gban.

[So, if you put yourself in a place so that it is by interest that you do it, if you are not careful you could not make music because it takes a lot of time. You can spend a long time in it without finding any good outcome.]

Ni (presse) le do I ka here be taa k'I dan.

[If you (rush) yourself, you will miss your blessing.]

(Donc) annu ta damine te...annu tun ba damine, a bilama, an tun te na se ka don an nun be na se ka ko do ke an yere a tumana.

[So we, we haven't started like that...when we were starting, if it were today, we could not know that we could make something of it for ourselves.]

A fana ni foli sababu la n'tun bana bara caaman na. a kera komi fen min lon a don na n'dusu la. N'ban na baara caaman na.

[Also, it is because of music that I refused a lot of jobs. It has become something that is in my heart. I have refused to do a lot of work.]

Hali mogo...n'beni ce yere tun be yen, a tun be fe kana n'toa ka taa n'ye (pour que) n'ka se ka ta baarake ale fe kodivuar (Cote d'Ivoire). N'boti la a le be la.

[Even one person...There was my uncle . He would come to look for me and bring me so that I could work with him in Ivory Coast. I ran away from all that.]

N'ko foli le n'be na ke.

[I said that it was music that I was going to do.]

A yere nana ke ne ba muso yere nana adusu kasira n'bolo.

[It also happened that my mother became very angry because of me.]

A y'a fo n'gnenan nii ma taa I benike ka baara ke yorola ni nana ni (problem) ye n'ti demen tuguni....ni nana ni kungo ye n'te na se k'I demen tuguni.

[She told me that if you do not get yourself to your uncle's place, if I come to her with my problems, she would not help me... that if I have any worries she would not help me.]

(Mais) n'yen tulo la a le be kan ka to a kan.

[(But) I hardened my ears in order to stay true to my work.]

N'ko (non), n'be na sigi ka to n'ka foli la.

[I said no, I am going to stay and continue my music.]

Wo de yen se n'bilama n'be folike.

[It is this that has allowed me to this day to make music.]

N'ka baara da be ye foli de ye ana dilan.

[The entirety of my work is music and making instruments.]

N'be balani dilan, n'be bala fo. n'be trupu (troupe) mina wo trupu togo ko Farafina.

[The group that I am part of is called Farafina.]

N'ye foli damine ni...julakan foli damine ni mogu minu ye: n'ya ye Mama Konate fe, k abo Mama Konate fe, kana ye Lodamu fe, k abo Lodamu fe a ni an filan do tun be yen an tun be foli ke kaa di gnogon ma.

[I started music with...I started music in the Dioula language with these people. I learned with Mama Konate, after I left Mama Konate to learn with Lodamu and there was a promoter (that he knew). We shared our music.]

A le fanan ye jeli caaman ye. A le fana ye "Kpen" de ye. A le togo "petit" Salif.

[He was also known by many griots. He's a "Kpen". They call him "(petit) Salif."]

N'fana toora ka'le bolono file.

[I have learned a lot from his style of playing.]

Sisan bibin na ne de bi solo ke farafina na.

[Now, today, I do the solo for Farafina.]

(Donc) ne ye farafina soloist ye.

[(So) I am Farafina's soloist.]

N'ya damine 2003 la kana se nin wakati man.

[I started in 2003 up until today.]

Wo 2003 la kana se ni wakati ma a le de ye tournee cyaaman le sen n'ma.

[From 2003 to today it is what has allowed me to participate in many (concert)] tours.

N'ye Suisse ke, nouvelle Zeland, Australie, Malasie, Allemagne, Italie, Slovenie, Croissie, France.

[I have done Switzerland, New Zealand, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, France.]

An y'o tournee munu be ke ni gnogon ye.

[We did these tours together.]

N'fana ye mogo baba de ye min tun ba kono ka koro.

[I have met many famous musicians that have spent a lot of time in (music).]

(Bon) an ye (conseil) di gnogon ma.

A la ma hina an ba muso koroba min Miriyam Makeba n'ye baro ke na ye, kaye.

[May the earth be light for our old mother Miriam Makeba, I had talked with her, I have seen her.]

N'ye Cesaria Evora ye Australie ka ye fana.

[I have seen Cesaria Evora in Australia, I saw her too.]

(Bon) ale koni an te gnogo ka kuma me an ma se ka baaro ke n' a ye.

Well, when with her, we do not understand each other's language.
[I could not talk with her.]

An ye gnogon kun ben c'yaama.

[We met many times.]

N'ye mogo cyaaman (recontrer) un tun ma la la n'bina mogo min (rencontrer) n'ka (vie) la.

[I have met many other people that I could have never imagined meeting in my life.]

(Bon) ne ka kuma be dan yan yoro la ten.

[(Well,) my speak stops there.]