

ORIGINS

The root of Tchando's music originates from a vast area in West Africa, covering approximately 1.290.000 km². In fact, it consists mainly of the former Mali Empire – an area that comprised current countries such as Senegal, Mali, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, Ivory Coast, Northern Ghana, etc... whose 375 years of existence and history (1235-1610) has been immortalized through generations by the famous musicians, the Djalis.

The Djalis are musicians and historians. They preserve the stories of the great Mali Empire, the important social events and landmarks, through their chants and verses, songs and narratives, and through their main instrument, the "Kora". Their inherited tradition was passed down through generations.

The main spoken language in the Empire known as Malinké or Manding had developed into different dialects over time and space within that huge territory. For example, in Guinea-Bissau, Gâmbia and Senegal the derivate language from the Malinké is called Mandinka and it is the same for all the three above mentioned countries. Different variations can be found in other countries.

Tchando's songs are interpreted in Mandinka language.

THE ALBUM

"Ba", the title of the album, is a Mandinka word meaning "The Sea". The song "Ba", tells the story of a man deeply regretful and full of remorse that prays for the forgiveness of nature. He went to the sea to whom he said: "Here I am, please wash me thoroughly clean and offer me your clean water to drink, and clean my inside too. Together with the rain, you might be able to clean our planet...The world is stained!"

The main message of this album can be resumed up in one word: Remember! First, we must remember about our existence, our planet and the generations to come that deserve a clean place to live. Although the album has a strong ecological character, it still reminds us that only with the understanding and tolerance, different people can live in harmony. Strong messages of peace for Guinea-Bissau as one of the constant preoccupations of Tchando is also present. Finally, in a moment of meditation, the album reminds us about the great men of our history, to whom we render homage through a prayer.

Traditional instruments such as balafon, kora, n'goni, dum-dum, etc., combined with western modern instruments have been used in the production of this album. For the realization of this album, musicians of several African countries took part such as; Mali, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Tanzania and Guinea-Bissau. Also participating were musicians from Denmark, Spain, Cuba, Sweden, France and the U.S. All the songs were interpreted in Mandinka language, except "Soweto" interpreted in English, Swahili and Portuguese Creole, and "Isé Tujê" interpreted in English and Mandinka.

Tchando is the author and composer of all songs, except "Isé Tujê" co-written by Alexandre Hamnede from the band "Bliss"; "Dindin Yá" and "Aridjanna" with Yadam Gonzalez and "Tili Kuto" with Klaus Bau Jensen.

The album was recorded in Copenhagen, at Dublab Studios by Jens Walter and Tim Harris, at Realtime Studio and at Bantaba Studio by Klaus Bau Jensen, and in France by Pierre Bianchi at Studio Guimick in Yerres.

All songs were mixed at Studio Guimick in France, by Pierre Bianchi except "Soweto", "Cordá" and "Lun Bá" mixed by Jens Walter in Studio Dublab, and "Mansol" mixed by Klaus Bau Jensen in Realtime Studio both in Copenhagen – Denmark.

All songs were mastered by Raphaël Jonin at J RAPH i.n.g Mastering Studio in Cordes sur Ciel – France.