



**THE
TOURÉ-RAICHEL
COLLECTIVE**

**THE
PARIS
SESSION**



The formation and success of The Touré-Raichel Collective, the band led by Israeli keyboardist and songwriter Idan Raichel and Malian guitarist Vieux Farka Touré—icons in their own countries and abroad—is a reminder of the unique power of music to bridge geographic, ethnic, political and religious differences.

Although a collaboration between an Israeli Jew and a Malian Muslim has unavoidable political implications, what inspired Touré and Raichel to work together was not the potential to make a statement; they simply connected as artists and friends seeking to find musical common ground.

They met for the first time by chance, in 2008 at the Berlin airport, where they expressed mutual admiration and a desire to get together and play. Touré's father, the late great Ali Farka Touré, was one of Raichel's musical heroes and inspirations. Raichel invited Touré to Israel, where they assembled a few musicians and convened an unscripted, improvised jam session. The chemistry between Touré and Raichel was instant and profound. They assumed the name The Touré-Raichel Collective and used the material from that first gathering as the basis for an album, *The Tel Aviv Session*, which found poignant, musically beautiful common ground between the artists' cultures.

Due to popular demand, The Touré-Raichel Collective has undertaken multiple international tours and performed on some of the world's most prestigious stages. In June of this year, Touré returned to Israel to join Raichel's band The Idan Raichel Project in a performance at Masada, an archeological site of immense significance in Jewish history.

Since they recorded their first album in Tel Aviv, the plan was to make the follow-up in Bamako. But for reasons of logistics, cost and security the artists met in France instead. For three days Raichel, who produced, and Touré sequestered themselves at Studio Malambo in the outskirts of Paris where they were joined by a number of special guests. While *The Paris Session* is the result of the

same freeform approach that was used in the first album, this time around they decided to feature more songs with vocals, a wider range of instrumentation, and appearances by musician friends such as Senegalese/Mauritanian artist Daby Touré on bass, Israeli trumpeter Niv Toar, Malian singer Seckouba Diabate and others. Touré and Raichel have honed their interplay over the course of multiple tours together, but the album possesses the same spontaneous, heartfelt magic as its predecessor.

One highlight of the recording is a rendition of the song “Diaraby,” written by Ali Farka Touré and featured on his landmark collaboration with Ry Cooder, *Talking Timbuktu*. Raichel says that there was a period of six or seven years during which he had listened to the song nearly every day. Upon sharing a stage with Vieux for the first time, Raichel suggested they play the elder Touré’s song together, and doing so brought tears to Raichel’s eyes. He describes feeling “a big, big circle from Ali Farka Touré in Niafunke to me in Tel Aviv, then going back to Ali’s son.”

More broadly Raichel says of his collaboration with Touré, “I’m a musician from Israel, and I will always make Israeli music. And Vieux Farka Touré for me represents the spirit of Mali. I think world music artists by definition are people who reflect the soundtrack of the place they come from. I think that this collaboration between Mali and Israel—and remember we don’t even have diplomatic relations between the two countries—creates a new imaginary island located somewhere between Bamako and Tel Aviv.”

Touré says, “Idan comes from Israel, he’s Jewish. I come from Mali, I’m a Muslim. This project shows the point where there are no real differences between us. Working on these recordings we learn a lot about each other. If music is indeed a universal language, you can’t just say it, you have to demonstrate it.”

Despite its unassuming spontaneity, the engaging interplay on *The Paris Session* exemplifies the unifying power of music.





Vieux Farka Touré is often called “The Hendrix of the Sahara.” Despite his father Ali Farka Touré’s wishes that he join the army, Vieux taught himself guitar in secret and stubbornly chose to pursue his dream of a career in music and further his father’s legacy. After earning his undergraduate degree from Mali’s Institute National Des Arts and a graduate degree from The Conservatory of Bamako, Vieux quickly emerged from his father’s shadow and established himself as an innovative, world-class musician and activist in his own right.

In his young career he has released seven critically acclaimed albums, toured the world many times over and collaborated with some of the world’s biggest musical stars, including Dave Matthews, Lauryn Hill, Derek Trucks and Ry Cooder. In 2010 he was invited to represent Mali at the opening ceremony of the World Cup in South Africa, where he performed to a cumulative global audience of over one billion people.

In 2013 he released his latest solo album, *Mon Pays*, as a direct, peaceful and uplifting response to the violent invasion of his homeland by foreign, extremist militants in 2012 and 2013. The album was roundly praised around the world and topped the CMJ World Music Chart for 2013.

A tenacious philanthropist throughout his career, Vieux has worked diligently to assist his fellow Malians through his Fight Malaria campaign and by raising money throughout his tours for the refugees of the recent conflict in Northern Mali. Most recently he founded AMAHREC-SAHÉL, a charitable organization providing crucial resources and assistance to impoverished children in the Sahel region of West Africa.

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Since 2003, when his song “Bo’ee” became an instant crossover hit that catapulted Idan Raichel and his group The Idan Raichel Project to the top of Israel’s pop charts, the keyboardist, songwriter and producer has been a household name in his native land.

In 2006, the U.S.-based record label Cumbancha released an eponymous collection of songs from the group’s first two albums, bringing the artist international renown.

The Idan Raichel Project has headlined some of the world’s most prestigious venues, including New York’s Central Park Summer Stage, Apollo Theater, Town Hall and Radio City Music Hall, Los Angeles’ Kodak Theater, the Sydney Opera House, Zenith and Bataclan in Paris, London’s Royal Albert Hall and many international festivals.

Raichel has toured and recorded with GRAMMY-winner India.Arie, including performances at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. for President Obama and his family on the first Martin Luther King, Jr. Day after Obama’s election as well as at the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in Oslo, Norway. In 2013, Raichel performed a private concert for President Obama during his official visit to Israel. In July 2014, Raichel joined Alicia Keys for a special duet during her sold-out concert at Nokia Stadium in Tel Aviv.

Cumbancha released the Idan Raichel Project’s latest album, *Quarter to Six*, in 2013, which featured guest appearances by Portuguese fado singer Ana Moura, Palestinian-Israeli singer Mira Awad, German counter-tenor Andreas Scholl, Colombia’s Marta Gómez, Vieux Farka Touré and some of Israel’s top emerging singers and musicians.





03 **Hodu** 3:27

04 **Gassi Gabbi** (feat. Eyal Sela) 1:29

05 **L'amour** 3:07









11 **Soumbou Toure** (feat. Dialimory Sissoko) 4:48



12 Déni Déni 2:13









The Touré-Raichel Collective with:

Vieux Farka Touré – Guitar, Vocals
Idan Raichel – Piano, Fender Rhodes, Bass, Moog, Vocals
Daby Touré – Bass
Abdourhamane Salaha – Calabash, Congas

Featured Guests:

Niv Toar – Trumpet on “From End to End”
and “Bandirabait”
Seckouba Diabate – Vocals on “Bandirabait”
Dialimory Sissoko – N’goni on “Soumbou Toure”
Eyal Sela – Flute on “Gassi Gabbi”

Original Session Recorded at Studios Malambo,
Bois-Colombes, Paris, France (www.malambo.fr)
Engineer: Laurent Compagnie

Produced by Idan Raichel

Mixed by Idan Raichel and Val Gamarnick

Mastered by John Davis at Metropolis Studios
London (www.metropolis-group.co.uk)

Executive Producer - Jacob Edgar, Cumbancha
Associate Producer – Eric Herman, Modiba

Graphic Design & Illustration by Matt Thame
at Studio Auto www.studioauto.co.uk

Photographs by Youri Lenquette and Nicolas Diop

Thanks to Shola Aleje at Metropolis, David Lewis,
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Sankare, the Toure family, the Raichel Family, to
Damaris and Philipa

Idan Raichel’s Team: Shirly Shilo (Manager), Hillel
Sommer (Legal Advisor), Nidar Oz (Communications
& PR)

All songs written by Idan Raichel and Vieux Farka
Touré and published by Idan Raichel (ACUM) and
World Circuit Publishing, except “Diaraby” written
by Ali Farka Touré published by World Circuit
Publishing. “Hodu” is based on “Hodu La Adonai”
by the Idan Raichel Project, music Idan Raichel,
lyrics traditional.

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THE TOURÉ-RAICHEL COLLECTIVE

WITH
IDAN RAICHEL
VIEUX FARKA TOURÉ
DABY TOURÉ
ABDOURHAMANE SALAHA

- 01 **FROM END TO END** (FEAT. NIV TOAR) 4:15
- 02 **TIDHAR** 5:27
- 03 **HODU** 3:27
- 04 **GASSI GABBI** (FEAT. EYAL SELA) 1:29
- 05 **L'AMOUR** 3:07
- 06 **ALLASSAL TEREY** 4:16
- 07 **DIARABY** 2:23
- 08 **DEBO** 4:28
- 09 **BANDIRABAIT** (FEAT. SECKOUBA DIABATE AND NIV TOAR) 3:53
- 10 **DIAME** 2:23
- 11 **SOUMBOU TOURE** (FEAT. DIALIMORY SISSOKO) 4:48
- 12 **DÉNI DÉNI** 2:13
- 13 **PHILIPA** 4:28
- (BONUS TRACK)
- 14 **ALLA** 4:44

PRODUCED BY IDAN RAICHEL

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THE IDAN
RAICHEL
PROJECT



LC 20764
The Cumbancha logo, which consists of a cluster of small white dots forming a shape, followed by the word 'cumbancha' in a lowercase, sans-serif font.