

That Global Sound

From Brazilian rap to African field music samples, our music editor cherry-picks a mixtape of new world music

WORDS OISIN LUNNY



GATO PRETO

Producer Lee Bass and rapper/singer Gata Misteriosa, aka the unstoppable Afrofuturist duo Gato Preto, built their name through explosive high energy live performances. Expect deep bass from Lee, Portuguese lyrical fire from Gata, and the “djembe power” of Mousa Diallo. Not one to be missed. www.gatopretomusic.com



KAROL CONKÁ

Brazilian rapper Karol Conká started her career aged 17 by participating in her school music competition. She slayed, obviously. A few years later her smash debut album *Batuk Freak*, produced by Nave, was released on highly respected Brighton-based label Mr Bongo. Karol continues to slay with her lyrical fire. www.karolconka.com



ALSARAH & THE NUBATONES

Alsarah is a singer, songwriter, bandleader and practitioner of Nubian/Sudanese inspired East-African Retro-Pop music. Born in Khartoum, Sudan, she relocated to Yemen with her family but is now resident in Brooklyn, NY. Alsarah’s brilliant albums are also notable for their superbly curated remix companion releases. www.alsarah.com



PETITE NOIR

The Noirwave movement was created by South Africa’s Petite Noir and creative director RhaRha, with its roots in music but its vision fixed firmly on the creative future. Against a backdrop of international anxiety around borders, Noirwave offers a citizenship which rejoices in freedom of movement, physically and creatively. PHOENIX approves. www.petitenoirmusic.com

TSHEGUE

Paris-based TSHEGUE are picking up a lot of heat, particularly their nonchalant French-Congolese frontwoman Faty Sy Savanet. “Muanapoto”, in which a deaf and mute young girl negotiates her way out of a world of silence, was written about her experience of emigrating to Paris from her native Democratic Republic of Congo aged 8. www.facebook.com/Tshegue

BEATING HEART

The Beating Heart project opens the largest archive of African field music in the world to artists like M.A.X., Coen, Kidnap Kid and Throwing Shade. Profits go back to the communities where the music came from, and have already funded school meals in Malawi and the Women’s Legal Centre in South Africa. www.beatingheartproject.com



AMADOU & MARIAM

Soul mates Amadou Bagayoko and Mariam Doumbia first met as children at Mali’s Institute for the Young Blind and later married and began recording together. Over the next three decades they have picked up a global following, supporting U2, Coldplay and Blur along the way. Their sound of true love has won them a dedicated fan base. www.amadou-mariam.com



FATOUMATA DIAWARA

Rightly hailed as one of the most vital standard-bearers of modern African music, singer, actor and social activist Fatoumata Diawara took her artistry to thrilling heights on her stunning new album *FENFO*. Check out her funky Disclosure collab “Ultimatum” and give *FENFO* a spin at your next dinner party. On repeat. www.fatoumatadiawara.com