

*Manding Grooves announces the second annual  
Balafon Workshop with*  
**Kanazoé Diabaté and Famoro Dioubaté**

From the 3rd to the 10th August 2024 in the Cévennes National Park  
With an African-European Pedagogy



**Community! Fun! Well-being! In open nature with friends and music.**

**With two extraordinary jelis (griots). Famoro and Kanazoé have 90 years of experience between them.**



**Le MERLET**

A farm in the Hautes Terres Cévenoles

This year, we're going to the MERLET, a special location with guest rooms, cottages, and a farm inn. It's a little slice of paradise for an unforgettable experience. Each day will begin with a meditation to the sound of the balafon, followed by intensive classes in the morning and afternoon. You'll also have the opportunity to enjoy stunning hikes during the day.

**Costs :** The base price for the week is 700€ which includes:

- 2 hours of class per day
- breakfast
- farm to table dinner
- housing

*\*Lunches are not included for a more flexible organisation of outings between balafon classes. The cottage offers takeaway lunch for €12. Local markets are nearby, and 3 kitchens available for use.*

There are rooms with two single beds, rooms with a double bed, and cottages with various configurations. Visit the website [lemerlet.com](http://lemerlet.com) to discover the type of room that suits you. I will do my best to accommodate your requests.

For more information and registration, contact Lisa Feder at [lisa@lisafeder.com](mailto:lisa@lisafeder.com) or by Whatsapp +33.6.50.57.66.27



# MANDING GROOVES

WEST AFRICAN MUSIC CONNECTIONS



**Famoro Dioubaté**



**Kanazoé Diabaté**

## **Two Teachers. Two Opportunities.**

Several balafon sessions are organised daily.

Levels: Beginner, Advanced, and m=Mixed

### **Intensive Classes**

2 hours a day with Kanazoé or

2 hours a day with Famoro

To take both classes: **150 € more** for the week.

Included in the price: afternoon practice sessions and the "village africain"

*\*Note: Kanazoe will not be with us on the last day, Friday August 9. Famoro will replace his classes.*

### **Village Africain**

In the late afternoon, we'll all play together. Balafon enthusiasts can play just like in the African countryside. Tired of the balafon? You can play other instruments like the doundouns, djembes, bells, and if you bring them: bass, flute, etc. It's also a chance to dance, listen, paint, and be free!

### **Jeliya**

A concert will be held one evening during the week. It will be an opportunity to honor and show our gratitude to Kanazoé and Famoro in the traditional way. In our country, when the jeli plays in a way that touches your heart (the practice of jeliya), it's customary to throw in some bills. It brings great joy to the musicians and adds positive energy to the evening. If you'd like to participate, please bring paper money.

Watch a video from our 2023 workshop [ICI](#)  
More on our website [www.mandinggrooves.com/stages](http://www.mandinggrooves.com/stages)

**For more info contact Lisa Feder**

**Whatsapp: +33.6.50.57.66.27**

**Email: [lisa@lisafeder.com](mailto:lisa@lisafeder.com)**



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## **Pedagogy: More than just a music lesson**

Learning is an indigenous educational system in Manding culture. Famoro and Kanazoe began their apprenticeship at the age of 7. This is how they developed their humanity. It's very rare for Europeans to learn in this style. In the Manding Grooves workshop, we blend African and European styles. While learning the balafon, the teachers impart values and qualities such as patience, concentration, coordination, grace, listening, respect, and a sense of community. These are values that we can integrate into our daily lives. With the assistance of Lisa Feder and other more experienced individuals, we will have the opportunity to explore and practice the rich spiritual culture of the jelis around different themes during the week.

Seydou "Kanazoe" Diabaté, from the Semla group of Burkina Faso, currently residing in France, began learning the balafon from his father at the age of seven. He plays both pentatonic and diatonic balafon. He is known for his creative, dynamic, and fast-paced style. He has been teaching and performing in Europe for over ten years. He is the leader of the band "Kanazoe Orkestra."



Famoro Dioubate, originally from Guinea Conakry, has been residing in New York City for 25 years. Born into a prestigious Kouyaté/Dioubaté family, he is known for his clarity and grace in the traditional style of Guinea. He is the leader of the New York-based group "Kakande."

These two artists were born into jeli families and were recognised from a young age for their exceptional talent. They are virtuosos in their art. We are fortunate that they enjoy sharing their knowledge with Europeans and Americans. They excel in the art of guiding each individual towards discovering their own grace.

Lisa Feder is an American anthropologist specialising in the study of the jeli (griot) educational system. Author of the book "Jeliya at the Crossroads", soon to be translated into French, she has studied under Famoro Dioubaté since 2005. Settled in France since 2015, she has created Manding Grooves with Famoro Dioubaté to support jelis in their journey in Europe and the United States. She believes in the power of music to bring people together across borders. She believes in learning as an ancient system for developing well-balanced human beings. She is also a spiritual practitioner, primarily in Buddhism. For Lisa Feder, jeliya, human development, and spirituality are inseparable.

**For more information and registration:**

**Lisa Feder par Whatsapp: +33.6.50.57.66.27**

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