Cheick Hamala Diabaté, a Grammy award nominee (2007), is recognized as one of the world's masters of the ngoni, a Malian traditional instrument and a West African historian in the Griot tradition. A sought-after performer, lecturer, storyteller and choreographer throughout Africa, Europe, Asia and Canada, Cheick Hamala began touring in the U.S. in 1995. He has performed at venues such as the Smithsonian Institution and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Cheick Hamala has performed and recorded with many well-known musicians from Mali, the U.S., and elsewhere including Salif Keita, Toumani Diabate, Bassekou Kouyate, Bob Carlin, Bela Fleck, and Corey Harris.

A steward of the 800-year-old tradition of the Griot, the storytellers of West Africa, Cheick Hamala shares the oral history, music and song of his culture as it was passed on to him from birth by parent to child. At an early age Cheick Hamala mastered the ngoni, a stringed lute and ancestor to the banjo. He learned to play the guitar from his uncle, and now plays banjo and several other instruments; but his renown remains with the historical ngoni.

Cheick Hamala works with notable traditional African dance companies based in the U.S. as instructor, choreographer and performer. He also performs solo and with his ensemble, playing traditional Manding Griot instruments. His music always reflects the historical integrity of an important art form with a rich tradition stretching back hundreds of years to the formation of the Great Malian Empire.  http://cheickhamala.com/

SUPER NOVA – King du Rap français

See him in concert on YouTube at  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9o1_2EZPLQ

He is raising funds for humanitarian relief in Mali. His Washington, DC concert involved over 100 people -- Urgent Relief for Mali Refugees Benefit Wednesday, June 13, 2012 | Washington, DC Music Performance by Supernova (MALI) On June 13th, 2012, over 100 people came together to raise awareness and crucial funds for the humanitarian crisis in Mali. At the time of the event, over 320000 innocent civilians have fled the crisis in Mali, seeking refuge in neighboring countries of Algeria, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, and Niger. Refugees & internally displaced persons (IDPs) are in dire ...

See also their webpage at  http://www.superno.org/pictures/