

# ALPHA YAYADIALLO





# ALPHA YAYA DIALLO

## B I O G R A P H Y



**Alpha Yaya Diallo**, guitarist, singer, songwriter is a three-time Juno Award winner. A true multi-cultural artist, he performs in French, English and his native Guinean languages of Fulani, Malinke, and Sosoxi.

Diallo's dexterous acoustic and electric guitar-playing, with its fluid melodic lines and compelling grooves, places him in the front ranks of African musicians. His band, Bafing, features high energy African rhythms, visually captivating dancers and a hypnotic percussion section.

Alpha was discovered in the late 1980's by Peter Gabriel's Real World Records when he was touring as the lead guitarist for the group Fatale. By successfully uniting the traditional and the contemporary, Diallo has carved a niche for himself beside such West African luminaries as Salif Keita, Baaba Maal, Youssou N'Dour, and Ismael Lo.

Born in Guinea, West Africa, Diallo was frequently on the move with his family, growing up in a number of regions. There he was exposed to a variety of cultures, and musical traditions from the Malinke, Sousou, and his own Foulani people. In addition he spent time in neighbouring Senegal and picked up the popular and powerful mbalax rhythm there - as well as influences from Cape Verde and the Caribbean.

With six highly-acclaimed albums of his own compositions, including Juno Award winners *The Message* and *The Journey*, it was a natural fit for him to take part in the hugely successful African Guitar Summit concert at Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto with Pa Joe, Mighty Popo, Madagascar Slim, Adam Solomon, and Donné Robert. The concert led to two recordings released by CBC Records, leading to another Juno Award for *African Guitar Summit*.

In 2007, Alpha was the only North American artist approached by the United Nations, to create a new work for a compilation CD that will further raise awareness around the issues of HIV/AIDS, hunger, and debt relief in Africa. The finished piece, *Imme Africa / Get Up Africa* is a tribute and a call to the people of that continent - their potential and responsibility.

Diallo's musical inheritance is something he always wants to nurture and to build upon. He never strays far from these roots, while at the same time ensuring that his performances and his albums make use of the very latest advances in music technology.

*"Diallo is an excellent guitarist and singer. If you have not heard his music, it will be a revelation."* — THE BEAT



# ALPHA YAYA DIALLO

## R E V I E W S



*"Immé is a sweet treat."* – **Exclaim**

"Alpha Yaya Diallo – is an artist of rare musical ability. This Juno award winner is a composer, band leader and guitarist extraordinaire."

– **Edmonton Journal**

*"Immé is superbly polished and infectiously delightful."* – **TJ Nelson, World Music Central**

"Diallo writes and plays intoxicating music steeped in the rhythms of his homeland."

– **SOCAN Words and Music Magazine**

"I confess, I'm addicted to Alpha Yaya Diallo."

– **Cyndi Mellon, Georgia Straight**

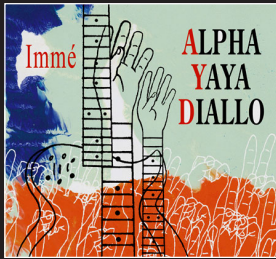
"Every so often an album comes along that is both timeless and incredibly current. *The Message* is an album with contemporary sound, and yet it is steeped in centuries of African music." – **CMJ Weekly**

"Stylish and danceable. Diallo should be a hit with fans of BABA MAAL and YOUSOU N'DOUR." – **Dirty Linen**

"This was the best show I've seen at the Sidetrack in ages. Probably in my top five Sidetrack shows. Alpha Yaya Diallo and his band of four percussionists and a bass player played three very long sets." – **Gabino Travassos**

# ALPHA YAYA DIALLO

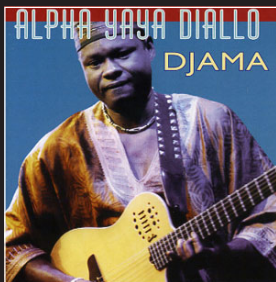
## DISCOGRAPHY



*Immé*



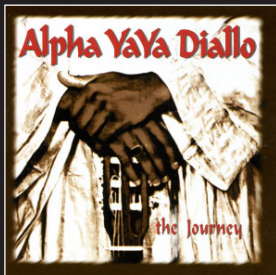
*African Guitar Summit II*



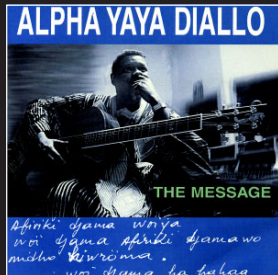
*Djama*



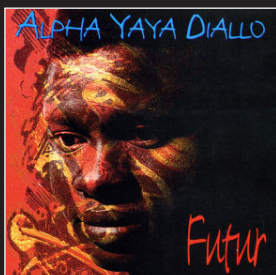
*African Guitar Summit*



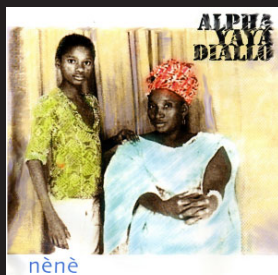
*The Journey*



*The Message*



*Futur*



*Néné*

**Immé** (2010) Jericho Beach Music

**African Guitar Summit II** (2006) CBC Records

**Djama** (2005) Jericho Beach Music

**African Guitar Summit** (2004) CBC Records  
JUNO Award Best Global Recording.

**The Journey** (2001) Jericho Beach Music  
JUNO Award Best Global Recording

**The Message** (1998) Bafing Productions  
JUNO Award Best Global Recording

**Futur** (1996) Bafing Productions

**Néné** (1993) Bafing Productions

## SELECTED PERFORMANCES

- 2010 Winter Olympic Games (Vancouver, BC)
- Luminato Festival (Toronto, ON)
- Houston International Music Festival (Houston, TX)
- Afrofest (Toronto, ON)
- Montreal Jazz Festival (Montreal, QC)
- Calgary Jazz Festival (Calgary, AB)
- Vancouver International Jazz Festival (Vancouver, BC)
- Festival Africain du Quebec City (Quebec City, QC)
- Les FrancoFolies de Montreal (Montreal, QC)
- Edmonton Folk Festival (Edmonton, AB)
- Bumbershoot (Seattle, WA)
- Chan Centre for the Performing Arts (Vancouver, BC)



# ALPHA YAY ADIALLO

## C O N T A C T S



[www.alphayayadiallo.com](http://www.alphayayadiallo.com)

**Canadian label:** Jericho Beach Music  
PO Box 53503, Vancouver, BC V5Z 4M6  
[info@jerichobeach.com](mailto:info@jerichobeach.com) • [www.jerichobeach.com](http://www.jerichobeach.com)

**UK Label:** Jericho Beach UK  
[www.jerichobeach.co.uk](http://www.jerichobeach.co.uk)

**Booking (Canada):**  
Jensen Music International  
PO Box 3445, Charlottetown, PE C1A 8W3  
(902) 569-1955  
[jensen@jproductions.com](mailto:jensen@jproductions.com)

**Booking (USA):**  
Herschel Freeman Agency  
7684 Apahon Lane, Germantown, TN 38138  
(901) 757-4567  
[hfreeman@herschelfreemanagency.com](mailto:hfreeman@herschelfreemanagency.com)

**Booking (Europe):**  
GLP - Walter Laurer  
Hütteldorfer Straße 259  
1140 Vienna, Austria  
[wlaurer@glp.at](mailto:wlaurer@glp.at)



JACK SCHULLER,  
Mainstage  
Management Inc.,  
P.O. Box 53503,  
Vancouver, BC  
V5Z 4M6 Canada  
Tel: 604-488-9153  
[jack@mainstagemanagement.com](mailto:jack@mainstagemanagement.com)

**FACTOR**  
The Foundation Assisting Canadian Talent on Recordings  
With Support From Canada's Private Radio Broadcasters