



THE AFROCANALYST

AMEN VIANA

Amen Viana is a rising star on the international Afro-rock music scene. Guitarist, singer, composer and arranger, he creates stunning musical soundscapes in the vein of *Living Colour*, but with a direct connection to the African roots that electrify their work.

Born in the tiny nation of Togo, Amen rose quickly to the heights of the West African music scene before blazing his way across the Mediterranean to establish himself in France. His virtuosic guitar playing, which has unmistakable echoes of Hendrix, quickly established his reputation amongst touring international acts and saw him invited to play alongside artists such as the Black-Eyed Peas, Angélique Kidjo, Indila, Cheick Tidiane Seck, Tony Allen.

He has played at Festivals all over the world, from Montreal Jazz Festival in Canada to Rock on Rio in Brazil to the Taragalte Festival in the middle of the Sahara Desert.

In addition to the hundreds of albums on which he has collaborated with other artists, Amen has composed and recorded five albums of his own: *Gamessou* (2007), *Togo to Go* (2010), *Funkabelik* (2012), *Pearls and Gold* (2012) et *Electric Togoland* (2017).

This last album, which brings together musicians from Africa and Europe and, through a process of musical alchemy, transforms traditional Togolese melodies into an electrifying rock-infused sound-track, has been compared to Ry Cooder's *Buena Vista Social Club*. A documentary about the experience of recording the album is in the pipeline.

Due out in 2019 is *The Afrocanalyst*, Amen's stunning solo incursion into the Afro-Rock arena, which features compelling original compositions, stunning guitar riffs as well as special guest artists Keziah Jones and Akua Naru.

CONCEPT

Afrocanalyst : element from Africa (and by extension from elsewhere) having the capacity to overcome the trauma occasioned by the forced departure from one's country of origin due to the absence of a viable future. Shunning all sense of victimization which had become futile in the spectre of an outdated and dysfunctional geo-political system; a system which nevertheless prevails.

The Afrocanalyst's *leitmotif* – quite literally - is to transform difficulties into strengths and to give meaning back to the notion of globalisation, which is occurring on a grand scale but with benefits that remain unidirectional. Inspiration is drawn from the words of Bob Marley 'You never know how strong you are, until being strong is your only choice'.

This is the combat of an enlightened generation that will never give up. 'The Afrocanalyst', or 'afrocanalysis' is above all a state of mind shared by all those who have walked this path.

ALBUM

Composed and recorded by Amen Viana, and drawing upon the talents of the many formidable musicians with whom he has worked over the years, *The Afrocanalyst* explores the uncharted dimensions of the relationship between African and European music.

The album consists of twelve titles, sung alternately in English, French and Mina, one of the languages of Togo. Guitar in hand, Amen Viana straddles two continents, appropriating the best of both musical worlds and creating a magical synergy that promises great things to come.

➤ Live sessions:

PAIN (rock) - <https://youtu.be/bfx0bV5Llg8>

GAMESSOU (acoustic) - <https://youtu.be/2hCbkkAl6XA>

➤ Soundcloud sample:

<https://soundcloud.com/amen-viana/sets/the-afrocanalyst-pro/s-3Kfru>

➤ Album teaser:

<https://youtu.be/yvlwVXvXpVg>



FEATURED ARTISTS



AKUA NARU



- AMEN VIANA –
THE AFROCANALYST



KEZIAH JONES

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE

Album Release: October 2019
Tour Africa: Nov/Dec 2019
Tour Europe: Spring 2020
Tour US: Summer 2020

The Band: Amen Viana (guitar/lead vocals)
Jon Grandcamp (drums)
Swaeli Mbappé (bass guitar)

plus invited artists

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