



# UASUF GUEYE

Multi-instrumental Musician • Composer • Historian



# BIOGRAPHY

Born in Washington, DC, Uasuf Gueye comes from a diverse background of music. His mother is a school teacher from Washington, DC. His father belongs to a family of West African oral historians and musicians known as Nguewel/Jeli. He began his musical journey at the feet of his father and other master musicians as he learned the techniques of West African percussion. Through these disciplines, Uasuf received his first training as a musician, performer, oral historian, and lecturer. At a young age, he began traveling and performing as a musician for the local West African Dance Companies in the Washington, DC area.



Over time, Gueye began to seek out different ways to express himself through music while making connections between both sides of his lineage. He began using his traditional African instruments to create hip hop, rock, R&B and jazz grooves, topped off with captivating rap and R&B lyrics. As a result, he has developed a vast repertoire that ranges from traditional songs from the 13th century to original compositions incorporating blues and jazz riffs.

Uasuf is now a dynamic multi-instrumentalist, playing six instruments including the West African xylophone known as Bala, a skillful composer and recording artist, as well as a captivating educator and teaching artist. Uasuf Gueye creates, teaches, and plays music that appeals to listeners from any age or background and is guaranteed to leave you wanting more.





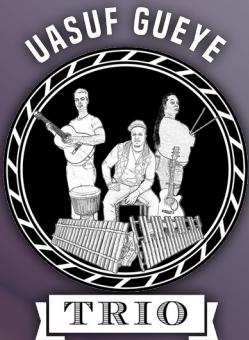
**1SELF CW**



### **Professional work and accomplishments include:**

- Lead Musician for bands Uasuf Gueye & Urban Virtuosos and the Uasuf Gueye Trio
- 2017-2018 Strathmore Artist in Residence
- Musician/Performing Artist for Alex Martin Music, Proper SKANKS, Africa Unplugged and others
- Guest Artist and Lecturer for American University, Berklee College of Music, and various D.C.-Maryland-Virginia area K-12 schools
- Music Accompanist for Kankouran African Dance, Coyaba Dance Theater, and more

# UASUF GUEYE TRIO



The Uasuf Gueye Trio performs the music of the royal courts of 13th century Manding West Africa. By combining the traditional repertoire of the oral historians of Manding with innovative jazz and blues arrangements, they are able to create an intoxicating listening experience that has been described as "history in motion". Whether creating a cool ambiance or an incredibly stimulating performance, the Uasuf Gueye Trio is guaranteed to transform any evening into a journey into the soul.

## Group Information

**Name:** Uasuf Gueye Trio

**Set duration:** 1-3 hours

**Music Genre:** African Jazz Fusion

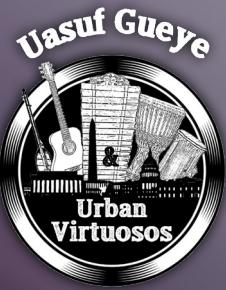
**Media:** Live Music

## Review

"...Beautiful show last night. Your stage presence was strong and elegant. You gave the audience a glimpse into the meaning of the music by showing respect for your family history and the audience." - **Marcy Marxer, two-time Grammy Award Winner**



# UASUF GUEYE & URBAN VIRTUOSOS



Uasuf Gueye & Urban Virtuosos consist of six musicians who are all accomplished in their own right. Driven by traditional instruments from the 13th century Manding Empire such as the Balafon and the Ngoni, the Urban Virtuosos band plays captivating arrangements that combine funky drum set patterns, soothing horn lines, soulful jazz vocals, and thought-stimulating hip-hop lyrics. This group of skilled musicians are guaranteed to provide an exhilarating experience for any audience that won't soon be forgotten.

## Group Information

**Name:** Uasuf Gueye & Urban Virtuosos

**Set duration:** 1-3 hours

**Music Genre:** World, Hip-Hop, Jazz, Fusion

**Media:** Live Music

## Review

"Uasuf Gueye and his band were an incredible addition to an already impressive lineup. Gueye and his band masterfully delivered a musically and culturally enriching experience to the TEDxYouth@Ballston event. The energy in the room was palpable. If you have the chance to work with him or see him live... take it!" – *Ashwood Heffern, TEDx organizer*



# K-12 SCHOOL PROGRAM

## The Beauty Of African Rhythm: An Introduction To Traditional West African Instruments

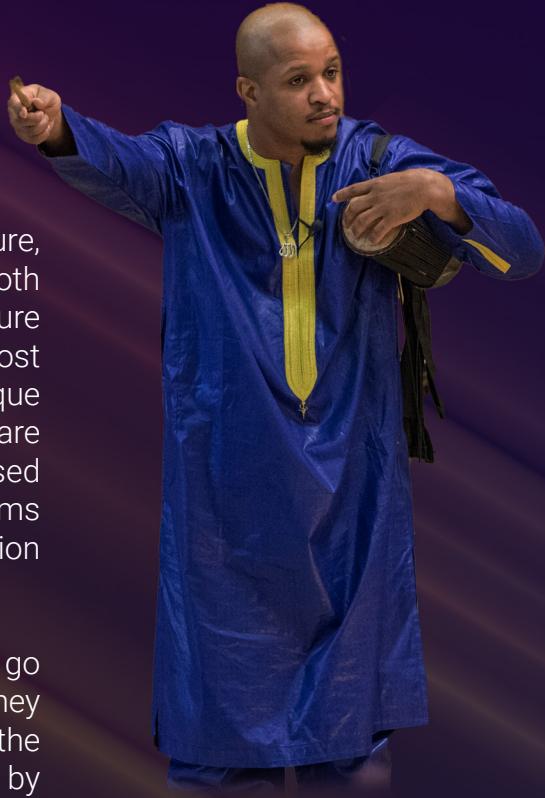
Using an extensive knowledge of West African history and culture, Uasuf Gueye presents an exhilarating performance that is both intellectually stimulating and emotionally captivating. In this brief lecture demonstration suitable for all ages, Gueye introduces some of the most popular instruments of Manding, West Africa. He provides a unique experience that allows participants to see how these instruments are played, learn how they are constructed, and learn how they are used within traditional society. In this highly energetic presentation, he aims to educate and entertain by presenting music and historical information in a way that is intriguing and tangible for any audience.

Students will learn the names of each instrument, what materials go into constructing them, and basic techniques for playing them. They will learn which modern day countries in West Africa belonged to the Manding Empire along with the basics of the languages spoken by Manding people. Students will also have the opportunity to interact with performers as they try out some of the instruments themselves.



### Recent School Performances

Friends Community School (College Park, MD)  
Greencastle Elementary (Silver Spring, MD)  
Children's Manor Montessori (Rockville, MD)  
Tyler Elementary (Washington, DC)  
Langley Park-McCormick Elementary (Langley, MD)  
and more!



## Reviews

"I really loved the audience participation parts where I got to clap along, because I felt like I was able to relate to the music and understand it more." - Holly Stephens, Language Arts Teacher



"This is my second time seeing Uasuf's performance. It's always great, I learn a lot every time. It's so interactive. Kids and adults love it. I can't wait to have him back at our school." - Jennifer Claiborne, Language Arts Teacher and Humanities Coordinator

"I really enjoyed the performance...I enjoyed the interaction, especially the clapping with the talking drum. I liked learning about the history of the instruments and how it all connects us as a human race" - Soo Young Chrisfield, Music Teacher K-2

"Amazing job! I was amazed at how he made all of the instruments himself and all of the music was just really awesome" - Student, Friends Community School

"The history he brought us, both of the instruments and the stories they tell, made a big impact on our families. I thank him for sharing with us." - Larry Clements, Head of School



# WORKSHOPS, RESIDENCIES, AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

By offering a number of workshop packages, Uasuf Gueye is able to meet a variety of needs. These fun yet informative workshops are geared toward helping students enhance learning skills and character strengths through the study of West African musical instruments and history. These instruments have been proven to help in the development of skills such as critical thinking, eye, hand, and ear coordination, basic math skills, and the overall ability to focus. Students will also learn the basics of how the instruments are built, notation and tuning, as well as techniques for playing.

Uasuf Gueye also offers one or two week residencies for grades 3-12 and college/university level students. These residencies are designed to foster in-depth learning in the African arts and

culture to promote and enhance curricular objectives. The aim of these residencies is to instill skills and life lessons that will amplify participants' confidence in self and awareness of the muse within. These residencies can be adapted to accommodate short-term community programs with similar objectives.



## **"Mandinka Bala"**

The Mandinka Bala workshop is an exhilarating introduction to the world of playing the African xylophone traditionally known as the Bala. Students will learn information on how to build and create melodies using the fundamentals of music theory.

## **"The Melody of Djembe"**

The Djembe is a hand drum played by the Manding people of West Africa. This hour-glass shaped percussion is played in an orchestra that includes multiple Djembe drums and three types of bass drums called Dundun. This high-energy workshop allows students a chance to express themselves while learning traditional rhythms along with the history of each rhythm. The Djembe package also includes lessons on polyrhythms and is a great way for students to gain a basic understanding of the percussive side of Manding music.

This workshop brings different instruments from the Mali Empire together to create the full orchestra experience. In the absence of traditional melodic instruments like Balafon, many traditional Djembe rhythms and arrangements have lost many essential nuances and drifted from their original melodious/songlike nature. Students will learn compositions from the repertoire of the royal musicians of ancient Mali as played in their original traditional context. This package includes instruments such as Balafon, Djembe, Dundun, and voice. It allows the opportunity for students to observe the role of each instrument and the relationship between the instruments as the compositions grow. This workshop teaches rhythms of the Djembe repertoire as played within the context of a complete Manding orchestra.

## PRESS LINKS

### JOLLY PAPA TV INTERVIEW

*Link*

### WPFW 89.3 FM

*Link*



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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