

Maya Soleil Afro-World Fusion



Maya Soleil Afro-World Fusion Music & Dance

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<http://mayasoleil.home.mindspring.com>

Maya Soleil electric ensemble presents a high-energy show of original music, ranging from the Highlife, Afro-beat, and other dance music styles of western and southern Africa to funky jazz. Costumed vocalists and dancers charm the audience with lyrics in several African languages and English, with colorful dances, and with audience-interactive dance and song. Add fiery improvised solos on saxophone and keyboards with a solid underpinning of bass and world percussion to get the “unique audio-visual experience” [*HotBands.com*] of *Maya Soleil*.

The ensemble includes 6-7 members representing Zimbabwe, Guinea, Ghana, Jamaica, and the USA. Instrumentation backing sweet African vocals includes saxophones, flutes, guitar, keyboards, balafon (wooden xylophone), mbira (thumb piano), African drums such as djembes and talking drums, electric bass, and a special world drum kit (featured in the international magazine *Modern Drummer*). An acoustic ensemble presenting only traditional African music and dance is also available.

Members of *Maya Soleil* have toured the world, performing and recording with many of the greats in African music and dance, including *Obo Addy* (Ghana), *Dumi Maraire* (Zimbabwe), *I.K. Dairo* (Nigeria), *Kanda Bongo Man* (Congo), and the national dance companies of Ghana and Guinea. They were featured artists on KCPQ-TV's (Seattle) profile for NW Folklife Festival and have been chosen to perform for heads of state throughout the world.

“Imagine surfing on a sound wave. You catch it here and now, but it carries you all the way back to... the primal thump of animal skins pulled tight across hollow logs. An instant later, the sounds of a saxophone, a guitar, or a synthesizer bring you back into the 21st century. If any band can take you there, it's *Maya Soleil*.” [*Third Place Books*]

www.mayasoleil.com

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