



# JECONTE & THE MALI ALLSTARS BOUBACAR SIDIBE - ADAMA DRAME SEKOU BAH - MAMADOU KONE



## **JeConte & The Mali Allstars**

**JeConte & the Mali Allstars** are a soulful blend of traditional Malian Blues and Northern California/New Orleans harmonica-based Bluesy Rock 'n' Roll. The project leaders collectively bring original music to the ensemble. This combination creates a high energy, one-of-a-kind performance that gets the crowd going.

The band recently completed a full-length album titled "**Mali Blues pour la Paix**" or "**Mali Blues for Peace**" in Bamako, Mali. The compilation by leading members, JeConte, Boubacar Sidibe and Adama Drame, includes unique, soulful songs with Blues, Rock, R&B, Reggae and African World influences with special guests Toumani Diabaté, Bassekou Kouyate, Vieux Farka Toure, & Khaira Arby promoting peace in Mali.

**JeConte & the Mali Allstars** have performed at multiple festivals throughout Mali and will be touring Europe and the United States throughout 2012. The band is also in discussions with multiple labels to bring this inspirational music to the greater World.



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**JeConte** brings his lightening harmonica chops and a deep, bluesy vocal style to the band. His performance is a one-of-a-kind, high vibrational musical experience, embodying what live, funky, bluesy-rock is all about. Residing in Northern California and having spent a great deal of time in New Orleans, Louisiana, he has played with multiple bands over the years and believes that JeConte & the Mali Allstars is a culmination of these efforts. JeConte is touring with his own project at festivals and clubs throughout the United States. You can listen to the latest JeConte release on iTunes: **Sweet Northern California**. He is currently working on his sophomore JeConte release **'Down by the Bayou'** with singer songwriter Anders Osborne. Look for its release later in 2012.



**Boubacar Sidibé** is one of the leading members of the Mali Allstars. Referred to as 'Crow' by members of the band, or 'old wise man,' he contributes years of World touring experience and outstanding musical leadership. He performs 'lefty' on a right-handed rhythm guitar and brings his beautiful melodic voice and chromatic harmonica to the group. Boubacar is best known as the rhythm guitar player for **Habib Koité's** band, Bamada. He has helped compose a great deal of Bamada's original music and is an integral part of the performance. He brings years of soulful songwriting to the Mali Allstars, with amazing guitar and harmonica licks, a 'do not miss' performance indeed.



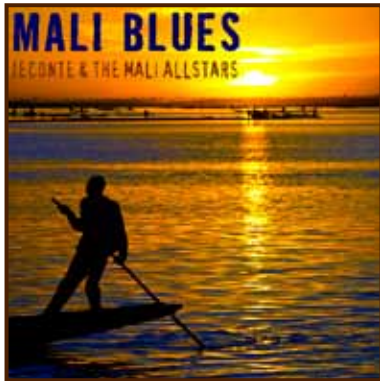
**Adama Dramé** is the lead guitar player for multiple bands throughout Mali, and a force to be reckoned with. Considered by many as the 'Jimi Hendrix' of Mali, he has an amazing, lightening guitar style, plays with his teeth and delivers an 'out of this world' live performance. If there is something that can be done with a guitar, Adama can do it. Adama Dramé has toured throughout Africa and Europe with **Fantani Touré**, **Charlie Arby** and multiple other bands over the past decade. He brings his non-stop energy to The Mali Allstars and contributes his years of musical knowledge, original songwriting, lead guitar and n'goni playing to live performances and the band's studio album, Mali Blues.



**Sekou Bah**, life-long friend of Adama Dramé, is a bass player extraordinaire and dynamic performer with a wealth of musical knowledge. Sekou Bah plays throughout Africa and performs internationally with world-renowned singer **Oumou Sangaré**. He is an exceptionally talented musician, and when not touring internationally with Oumou, he is furiously working away in his home studio, Hampathe Bah. It is at Hampathe Bah Studio in Bamako where JeConte & the Mali Allstars recorded their first series of tracks for the Mali Blues project, and Sekou Bah played bass and was the lead engineer, helping to produce the entire record.



**Mamadou Kone** is JeConte & the Mali Allstars' 'Mad Percussionist.' He is a master at percussion and also plays traditional n'gone. He performs on the traditional Malian bass drum, the Kalabash and the 'talking drum', and a multitude of other percussive devices that he pulls from his bag-of-tricks. Mamadou, a long-time member of **Habib Koité's** band, Bamada, has toured internationally with Habib Koité for the past ten years. He also performs throughout Mali in many other projects. Mamadou brings an incredible infectious energy to the Mali Allstars' live performance with his wireless talking-drum magic.



### **MALI BLUES FOR PEACE- FULL LENGTH ALBUM - 2012**

JeConte was working in Mali when the coup erupted and he was caught right in the middle of it, the story is a good one and it led to some incredible music. During his time in Mali he and the band completed over 25 tracks and is working on the release of their first album in 2012. Mali Blues for Peace will feature Grammy award winner Toumani Diabaté, Bassekou Kouyate, Vieux Farka Toure, and Khaira Arby. This CD features all original tracks recorded in Bamako, Mali in 2011 and 2012. The album is written by JeConte, Boubacar Sidibé and Adama Dramé and produced by JeConte. We are currently presenting to multiple labels for representation and look forward to bringing this soulful music to the World. You can listen to one of the featured tracks 'Le Mond Pour La Paix' on the website [www.themaliblues.com](http://www.themaliblues.com).



### **JeConte & The Mali Allstars Tour Mali 2012**

JeConte lived in Bamako for the first three months of 2012 and he and the band performed at multiple festivals, clubs and special events in Mali and throughout Bamako. Festival in the Desert, Festival Segou, Festival Sellingue were the highlights. In addition JeConte & Adama Dramé performed all over town multiple nights a week with many bands. JeConte also performed with Toumani Diabaté, Bassekou Kouyate, Vieux Farka Toure, Khaira Arby, & Baba Ni Kone throughout Bamako for National TV and the President of Mali & Prince of Monaco. When not performing the band was hard at it in the studio working on the Mali Blues epic compilation of over 25 tunes, soon to be released and supported with a World tour in 2012.



### **LE FESTIVAL AU DESERT - ESSAKANE, MALI 2011**

**Le Festival au Desert** - [www.festival-au-desert.org](http://www.festival-au-desert.org) - **'The Festival in the Desert'** is an annual concert in Essakane, Mali, showcasing traditional Tuareg music, Malian music, and music from around the world. **JeConte & the Mali Allstars** headlined 'The Festival' and performed with a ferocious energy, getting the entire audience to join them during 'I Love Mali' and for their tribute to recently deceased band member, **Mangala Camara**. The crowd kept chanting 'Mangala Camara, Inshallah, Insha-Alah, Inshallah,' during and long after the performance was complete. The band's performance was documented on Malian TV and ran for multiple weeks after the festival.



### **ESSAKANE FILM - JeConte & The Mali Allstars featured in the film**

A film about The Festival Au Desert, the film crew joined the band in the studio in Bamako and throughout Mali. It is a great opportunity for the band, and an exciting and wonderful project. They documented the band's performance at the festival and they have featured JeConte & the Mali Allstars on their website, BLOG and in their photo gallery. Take a look and see what cool stuff they have going on at [www.essakanefilm.com](http://www.essakanefilm.com). JeConte & the Mali Allstars are in direct contact with the filmmakers and look forward to touring with the film at music and film festivals when the film is released in 2013.



**SEARCH FOR THE SOUL**

*One Planet. One Culture. One Soul.*



In August of 2009, Joe Conte's (JeConte) Love of his Life, Negrita Jayde, was taken tragically by cervical cancer. One year prior to her loss, his Father lost his battle to lung cancer. These personal tragedies forced him to take a step back and see the value of the Life we lead, the importance of being conscientious, and the intrinsic value and potential that comes from our conscious decisions. He decided that he needed to find himself again, to embark on a journey that would help him to find his soul, it was here that **'Search for the Soul'** was born.

**'Search for the Soul'** is a film series that follows musician JeConte as he travels throughout multiple regions of the World. Beginning in Mali documenting the adverse effects of desertification on the Tuareg people, Life in Timbuktu, making music in Mali, and the amazing experience of **'The Festival in The Desert.'** The project will continue onward to Louisiana, The Amazon, Mongolia, Nepal, India and more.

**'Search for the Soul'** will help shed light on the remote cultures of the World and open the eyes of its viewers to the realities that the people in these regions face on a daily basis. This compelling story about, 'searching for our soul' through the remote cultures of the World will also act as a fundraising tool for the **SOULNOW.ORG** organization and will feature music by JeConte & The Mali Allstars and many more.



**SOULNOW** - ( Save Our Universal Language NOW ) is an official 501c3 nonprofit organization that documents cultures affected by climate change in order to help preserve their musical heritage.

Our goal is the building eco-conscious music schools that document and educate cultures, while simultaneously introducing new technologies to help alleviate local environmental challenges.

Music is the foundation of culture. It guides our souls to a place of peace and unity and brings all people of the World together. Many parts of the World are in peril due to a multitude of reasons from conflict and war to desertification and deforestation. SOULNOW will make a difference in peoples lives we look forward to sharing more with you on our new website May 2012.

For more on **'Search for the Soul'** and **SOULNOW** go to: [searchforthesoul.com](http://searchforthesoul.com) and [soulnow.org](http://soulnow.org)

**LE FESTIVAL AU DESERT - ESSAKANE, MALI 2010**

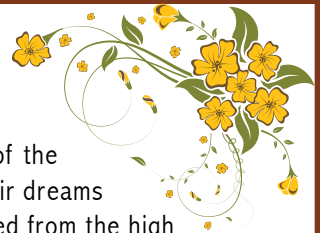
**Le Festival au Desert** - [www.festival-au-desert.org](http://www.festival-au-desert.org) (The Festival in the Desert) is an annual concert in Essakane, Mali, showcasing traditional Tuareg music, as well as music from NOWSOUL around the world. In January 2010, JeConte joined legendary musicians on the main stage of the Festival in the Desert: Cheick Tidiane Seck, Habib Koite, Mangala Camera, Will Calhoun (Living Colour), and Charlie Harby & Adama Dramé. JeConte also played with Mangala Camara, Boubicar Sidibé, Tarakafte, and Timbuc 30 while touring throughout Mali, and it is during this time that **JeConte & the Mali Allstars** was born.

"It was an incredible experience to play with Cheick, Mangala Camara, and all the great musicians at the **'Festival in the Desert.'** There is something very magical about Mali, and there is nothing quite like the peace and serenity that the desert has to offer. I recommend the journey to everyone and know that I will feel at home in Timbuktu for all my years." - JeConte





# JECONTE



Through the mist and the fog, beyond the golden shores, forged in the heart of the Redwood Mountains, there is a magic in the air that inspires the faithful to live their dreams and follow their hearts. This is where the album **Sweet Northern California** was created from the high vibration bluesy rock 'n' roll of JeConte, and it is an inventive, electrifying compilation of magnetic and inspirational tunes.

## JECONTE - SWEET NORTHERN CALIFORNIA - ALBUM REVIEW



Cue "Colorado," an all out celebration of blues and rock, and more importantly, the first track on JeConte's album, **Sweet Northern California**. The perfect showcasing of the band's rock/blues style, "Colorado" is the most upbeat song on the album. But don't let that mislead you into thinking that's where you should stop listening; while for the most part the rest of the album tones it down a couple notches, providing a slowed down exhibition of the JeConte's more soulful, bluesy side, the lyrics and instrumental talent not only maintain their original impressiveness, but also progressively become more unique and enjoyable.

The greatest thing about this album is that you can turn on any track and hear a completely different influence or sound in each song. While "Downtown Brown" provides the listener with a return to soulful blues, one could seriously mistake "Where to Go" as a track off of one of Bruce Springsteen's albums. All in all, the band can best be understood as the voice of Bruce, the soul of Ray Charles, and the musical stylings of Blues Traveler all in one. While on the topic of Blues Traveler, one cannot help but mention the similarly impressive harmonica playing of JeConte. The unique Texas Blues/ Jazz/ Funk harmonica style stands out on almost every song on the album, though I found that "Get it While You Can" allowed me to truly appreciate the talent and versatility that JeConte's playing exhibits.

Having already rocked New Orleans during Jazz Fest 2010, among other festivals and concerts, JeConte seems to be making its way onto the jam band/ blues music scene with a unique sound that people have been waiting for. While I am still undecided on whether or not the album provides enough jam band, take your shoes off and dance in the grass music, the range of tracks from upbeat to slow and soulful to somewhere in the middle certainly speaks to the versatility of the band and the diversity of the songs on this album. So while the future hopefully brings more dance - worthy tracks, one thing is for sure: with this album, "I'm here sittin' on the porch lettin' the world go by." And there ain't nothin' wrong with that.



**Key Tracks: Colorado, Get it While You Can, Where to Go**

**Michelle Caley – MuzikReviews.com Contributor July 2010**

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**For Questions Or Comments About This Review**

**Send An Email To [info@muzikreviews.com](mailto:info@muzikreviews.com)**

### Tracks

1. **Colorado**
2. **Undone**
3. **Macaroon**
4. **Sweet Northern California**
5. **Everything & Anything**
6. **Heroin**
7. **Waiting**
8. **Downtown Brown**
9. **Never Leave You**
10. **Run to the Sea**
11. **Sausalito Lover**
12. **Get It While You Can**
13. **Heart**
14. **Where To Go**
15. **Never Let It Go**
16. **Sweet Negrita**