

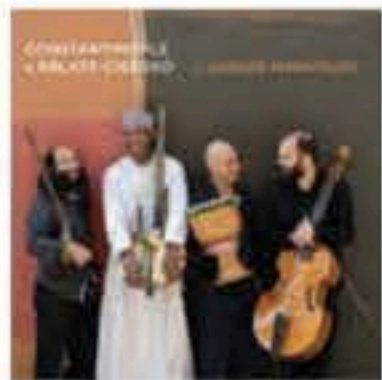
# Constantinople & Ablaye Cissoko

## Jardins Migrateurs

Ma Case (54 mins)



*The sounds of West Africa meet those of classical Iran*



Ablaye Cissoko is a *kora*-playing Senegalese *griot* who has been invited to accompany the

celebrated Montréal-based Iranian trio Constantinople. Kiya Tabassian leads Constantinople with a voice that simultaneously soothes and sends pleasurable shivers up the spine. His instrument is the *setar*, a plucked lute with four strings. Accompanying him is hand percussion and *viola de gamba* (a form of plucked and bowed cello), which provides a bass line.

The repertoire on this disc mixes compositions and adaptations created by Cissoko and by Tabassian, who are steeped in Mande tradition and Persian poetry respectively. It is a seamless and harmonious meeting

of the two cultures. The *kora* and *setar* sit perfectly well together, each played with great virtuosity and without unnecessary ostentation. The alternating voices are a breath of fresh air and contrast beautifully: Cissoko mellow and Tabassian spiritual. A disc of regal and dignified magnificence.

MARTIN SINNOCK

**TRACK TO TRY** *Le Pas de l'Eau*