

## BAM 2019 Winter/Spring Season

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### World music legend *Youssou NDOUR* returns to BAM for two electrifying nights of music, May 31 & Jun 1

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor

#### Youssou NDOUR

**BAM Howard Gilman Opera House** (30 Lafayette Ave)

May 31 & June 1 at 8pm

Tickets start at \$30

**April 23, 2019/Brooklyn, NY**— Senegalese singer-songwriter-activist and legendary live performer **Youssou NDOUR** makes his eagerly anticipated return to BAM with his band Le Super Étoile and special guests. The engagement marks the Grammy Award-winning singer's fourth time on BAM's stage since headlining the historic *Muslim Voices: Arts & Ideas* (2009 Winter/Spring Season).

NDOUR is widely credited with creating and popularizing Senegal's music style of mbalax, a blend of the country's traditional griot percussion and praise-singing with Afro-Cuban arrangements and flavors. A music style which garnered popularity beginning in the 1970s, mbalax means "rhythm" in Wolof (language of the Wolof people) and is characterized by rhythms of the indigenous sabar drum accompanied by keyboards, synths, and vocals influenced by African and Arabic vocal stylings. This music gave birth to the mbalax dance movement which continues to be a staple in nightclubs, social and religious gatherings, and benchmark life events. At its essence, mbalax is a completely original and powerful form of expression that radiates independence, inclusiveness, freedom from existing conventions, and tells a multifaceted story of cultural diaspora.

Youssou NDOUR's roots in Senegalese traditional music and griot storytelling have remained the hallmark of his artistic personality. A daring innovator, NDOUR fashions a sound that is both characteristically Senegalese and outward-looking, a contagiously exciting synthesis of musical languages. *Rolling Stone* has called NDOUR's stunning tenor "a voice so extraordinary that the history of Africa seems locked inside it," and Le Super Étoile was lauded in *The Village Voice* as "the greatest band in the world."

NDOUR has introduced the music of Africa to countless new audiences and throughout his storied career has collaborated with some of the biggest artists in music, including Peter Gabriel, Sting, and Lou Reed. As a human rights activist, NDOUR helped lead the international movement to free Nelson Mandela and became a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations and UNICEF. In the late 1980s, he gained international acclaim when he joined an Amnesty International concert tour and released "Shakin' the Tree" with Gabriel which advocated for the rights of African women.

BAM COMMUNICATIONS  
718.636.4129  
PRESS@BAM.ORG  
BAM.ORG

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC  
PETER JAY SHARP BUILDING  
30 LAFAYETTE AVENUE  
BROOKLYN, NY 11217-1486

NDOUR's past performances at BAM include Youssou NDOUR at BAM (2016 Winter/Spring Season), Nonesuch at BAM (2014 Next Wave), and *Muslim Voices: Arts & Ideas* (2009 Winter/Spring Season).

For press information contact Cynthia Tate, [ctate@BAM.org](mailto:ctate@BAM.org) or 718-724-8022.

#### Credits

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor

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#### General Information

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place, houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas is dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming. BAMcafé, operated by Great Performances, offers varied light fare and bar service prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue – Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater) D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue  
Train: Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal – Barclays Center  
Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM

For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit [BAM.org](http://BAM.org).

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