

## Élage Diouf BIO

Senegalese-born master percussionist, author, composer and performer, Élage Diouf moved to Canada in 1996 to pursue a musical career that continues to flourish today. His music--a hybrid of pop, world, blues, folk and asiko--is at the artistic crossroads of artists such as Carlinhos Brown, Peter Gabriel and Andres Cepeda. Because of the musicality of his native language, he sings mainly in Wolof.

A renowned star in his native Senegal, he officially made a name for himself in North America with his first solo album, Aksil ("welcome" in Wolof), receiving many accolades, a JUNO Award for World Music Album of the Year (Canadian Grammy) and a FÉLIX for the World Music Album of the Year at the *Gala de l'ADISQ* (Québec).

In 2015, Élage launched his awaited second solo album, Melokáane ("reflection" in Wolof). Co-produced by Élage and Alain Bergé, the album offers many collaborations such as with multi platinum singer Johnny Reid and guitarist Jordan Officer. Melokáane received a nomination for World Music Album of the Year at the *Gala de l'ADISQ* (Québec), and a nomination for World Solo Artist of the Year at the Canadian Folk Music Awards (Canada).

Élage is sincere in his artistic approach, charismatic, and authentic both on and off stage. People love him, and above all, he loves people. He is noted for his ability to engage the audience by dancing and singing--both in the venue and those he invites on stage with him. His unique and warm voice, combined with his diverse influences, make him a unique and compelling artist.

*My music is for the whole world to enjoy. It touches the heart, whatever the language. With upbeat songs that combine many cultures' influences, sounds that are warm, with good dancing rhythms, sounds that make you want to move and feel great. That is what I want for myself, my family, my planet. – Élage Diouf*

### Notable collaborations

Élage Diouf first became known for his countless collaborations, notably with André "Dédé" Fortin and his band, the Colocs. As co-author for the song *Get Out of It / Tassez-vous de d'là*, Élage Diouf won the SOCAN Echo Award.

His many other collaborations led him to star in the world tour of Cirque du Soleil's *Delirium* show, where he participated in more than 200 performances in the world's largest cities and honed an incomparable stage experience.

In recent years, he has also toured with internationally renowned artist Johnny Reid as a guest artist.