

**Nonesuch Releases Grammy Award-Winning Senegalese Singer/Songwriter Youssou N’Dour’s
Rokku Mi Rokka (Give And Take) on October 30**

Special guests join N’Dour’s longtime band, the Super Etoile, for new album

**16-city North American tour begins November 15 and includes stops in
NYC, L.A., San Francisco, and Washington, DC**

Nonesuch Records releases Youssou N’Dour’s *Rokku Mi Rokka (Give And Take)* on October 30, 2007. The album follows N’Dour’s 2004 Grammy Award-winning *Egypt*—a celebration of Senegal’s Muslim mystical culture of Sufism that featured traditional musicians from Dakar and Cairo. On *Rokku Mi Rokka*, N’Dour continues his adventures in traditional music.

“The music and inspiration on this album are from the north, from the desert, from parts of the country that border on Mali and Mauritania. People from those countries will know and understand this music as well as people who come from the centre of Senegal,” N’Dour says.

“Some people might think Senegalese music means mbalax, which is Wolof, the most important language in the country, everybody speaks it. But all my life I have been saying that this is not the only music we have in Senegal, we have a wide range of sounds and rhythms. When it came to writing the songs for this album, I wanted to use different sounds.

“Sometimes you will hear a little blues on the album, a little reggae, a bit of Cuba. In Africa, we get excited when we hear these rhythms, because we feel them, they are ours, but they left Africa with the slaves a long time ago. *Rokku Mi Rokka* means ‘You give me something, I give you something’ and that’s the message of the album: we have received a lot from the developed world, but remember that we brought a lot, too.”

For the recording, N’Dour returned to the band he helped form a quarter of a century ago, the Super Etoile, and old friends Habib Faye (bass), Babacar “Mbaye Dieye” Faye (percussion) and Papa Oumar Ngom (guitar), who have been part of Youssou’s circle for more than 20 years. “They are not from the north, but they are Senegalese, they understand exactly what is happening in the north, the south, and the centre.”

There are a few additions to the team, too. Neneh Cherry, duets with Youssou on “Wake Up (It’s Africa Calling)”. (Cherry and N’Dour previously recorded the hit song ‘7 Seconds’ in 1994). “We’re not trying to have another ‘7 Seconds’ as this is a much more African-sounding song, featuring our instruments, such as kora,” N’Dour says.

The Malian musician Bassekou Kouyaté, previously best known as a member of Ali Farka Touré’s band, adds ngoni, a four-stringed ancestor of the banjo, to “Sama Gàmmu”. The same song also features the voice of Ousmane Kangué a singer from the north, described by Youssou as simply “great, like Baaba Maal”. Additionally Balla Sidibe and Rudy Gomis of Orchestra Baobab, who were in N’Dour’s studio recording their album on the day he recorded this “Xe!”, sing on that track.

Youssou N'Dour tour dates

November 15	New Orleans, LA	House of Blues
November 16	Miami, FL	Gusman Center for the Performing Arts
November 18	Kingston, NY	Ulster Performing Arts Center
November 19	Washington DC	Kennedy Center Concert Hall
November 20	Philadelphia, PA	Kimmel Center
November 21	New York City, NY	Nokia Theatre
November 22	New York City, NY	Nokia Theatre
November 23	Montreal, CANADA	L'Olympica de Montreal
November 29	Chico, CA	Laxson Auditorium, Cal State University
November 30	San Francisco, CA	Nob Hill Masonic Center
December 1	Los Angeles, CA	Royce Hall/UCLA Center For The Arts
December 2	Boulder, CO	Boulder Theatre
December 3	Aspen, CO	Belly Up
December 6	Madison, WI	Wisconsin Union Theatre, University of Wisconsin
December 8	Ann Arbor, MI	Hill Audi
December 10	Somerville, MA	Somerville Theatre

For more information, visit <http://publicity.nonesuch.com>, or contact:

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