



AHMED AG KAEDY

Amanar de Kidal - Mali

Ahmed Ag Kaedy's story begins in the heart of the Adrar des Ifoghas mountains in northeastern Mali where he honed his modern variation of the classic *desert blues* sound.

[MUSICIANS]

- **Ahmed Ag Kaedy** / lead guitar and vocals
- **Lifa Ag Iljimit** / percussion
- **Moussa Ag Ahmed** / rhythm guitar
- **Mahalmadane Traoré** / drums
- **Kalle Enkelmann** on bass in Europe & **Aziz Cissé** in Mali

[FILM DOCUMENTAIRE]

- **Mali Blues**
Directed by Lutz Gregor in 2016
<http://icarusfilms.com/if-blues>

[YOUTUBE]

- Documentary about Ahmed Ag Kaedy (**Faces of Africa series**)
: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cUFwNWkxDBI&t=5s>
- Clip shot by Sahel Sahara Band for **la Caravane Culturelle pour la Paix** in 2015 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUYsbpsO_0I



[DISCOGRAPY]

- **Akaline Kidal** – March 2019
- **Orion Congregation** 2018
- Onom Agemo and the Disco Jumpers 2017 (Guest Artist)
- Agrim Agadez – Musique guitare de la République du Niger 2017 (Guest Artist)
- Dinamitri Jazz Folklore - ExWide Live 2017 (Guest Artist)
- **Amanar de Kidal** - Tumastin 2015
- Songs for desert refugees Compilation 2012
- Ishilan n-Ténére – 2010 (Guest Artist)
- **Alghafiat**, 2010



[BIOGRAPHY]

Ahmed Ag Kaedy — leader, singer, composer and guitarist of the band Amanar founded in 2005 — is a figurehead for a generation of musicians who feel a responsibility to communicate via conscious lyrics stressing the importance of education and development while respecting local traditions.

Earlier in his life, the struggles between his community and the Malian government forced him to flee to Algeria where he joined Gaddafi's Libyan Army. This sharp turn in his life was short lived. After quickly realizing that the guitar was a more powerful weapon than a rifle to fight intolerance, he returned to Kidal. After extremist factions swept over his hometown, suppressing music and threatening to cut his fingers if he ever dared to play the guitar again, Ahmed Ag Kaedy moved to Bamako where he still resides.

ARTIST BOOKING

CANADA 🍁

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[BIOGRAPHIE (continues)]

While other local favorites Tinariwen and Terakaft have moved on to international careers, Amanar has emerged as a favorite of the *Tamasheq* youth (Tuaregs generally call themselves Kel Tamasheq, i.e. 'the Tamasheq speaking people', as they prefer to be known).

Amanar, under Ahmed Ag Kaedy's leadership, works as a collective ready to inform and educate enthusiastic youth, using their music as a vehicle to transmit ideas.

Ahmed's lyrics have evolved beyond the old calls of rebellion to give priority to the need for education in the community, criticizing the corruption amongst the elite, and calling for the construction of a large united Mali — all ideas that Kaedy calls "the true rebellion".

Amanar's big break happened in 2010 at the 10th Edition of The *Festival au Désert*, near Timbuktu, where their performance resonated with both locals and visitors. They returned the following year, and their appearance was documented in Désirée Von Trotha's documentary *Woodstock in Timbuktu*, which also featured Tartit and Bombino.

2013 - The Caravane Culturelle pour la Paix (Cultural Caravan for Peace) was set up in 2013 by the organizers of Ségou's Festival sur le Niger and the Festival au Désert, when the latter could no longer stage any concerts in Timbuktu because of the conflicts. It showcased a group of Malian musicians representing the eight regions of the country, to promote cultural diversity and social cohesion between the peoples of the Sahel and the Sahara. The group was named "Malikanw", which means "The Voices of Mali" in the Bambara language. It was composed of: • Samba Touré (representing both Gao and Timbuktu) • Cheick Siriman Sissoko from Kayes • Mariam Koné from Koulikoro • Sadio Sidibé from Sikasso • Ben Zabo and Zoumana Téréta from Ségou • Petit Goro from Mopti, and • Ahmed Ag Kaedy from Kidal.

2014 - A first tour took them to Bamako, then to the refugee camps of Djibo, Bobodioulasso and Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, Festival sur le Niger of Ségou, Taralgate Festival in M'hamid El Gizlane (Morocco), then back across Mali to finish in Bamako.

It was followed by a European tour with Africa Festival in Hertme (Netherlands), Presenze di Africa in Florence (Italy), the Croisée des Chemins Festival in Les Houches (France), the Sfinks Festival in Antwerp (Belgium) and the Globaltica Festival in Gdynia (Poland).

Another occasion for Ahmed to temporarily flee the hostilities of his homeland and spread the positive and forward-looking message was Berlin's Festival au Désert in Exil as a substitute to what should have been the 13th edition of the Timbuktu event.

The performances included a concert at the Volksbühne featuring the late Khaira Arby (who passed away in 2018) and Amanar de Kidal, as well as the Hamburg rock band Kante, while the Malian musicians also took part in a workshop with musicians from the local Jazz Institute at the Akademie der Künste.

2016 - *Mali Blues*, a documentary film by Lutz Gregor released in 2016, told the story of four musicians who, with their music, refuse to accept hatred, suspicion, violence and a radical interpretation of Islam in their country. Ahmed Ag Kaedy, Fatoumata Diawara, Bassekou Kouyaté and Master Soumy were the main protagonists.

Following the film's release, Amanar played in Berlin and also performed with local band The Omniversal Earkestra. Amanar also played at Market for African Performing Arts – MASA Festival held in Abidjan, Ivory Coast and Visa for Music in Rabat, Morocco.

2018 - Ahmed Ag Kaedy played several dates in the United States as a solo artist, and worked on various projects with Onom Agemo & The Disco Jumpers, Embryo and Orion Congregation (with whom he released a new album on Schneeball records)