



AYIKPAHOUN

the rhythm of awakening

For culture, through music, with rigor and commitment.

PRESSBOOK • BENIN • 2026 | Accolades: Star's Live • MIA • Africa Sound City



MANIFESTO

Where others see a stage, we see a responsibility.

The messages we carry — awakening consciences, humanity's relationship with technology, the unity of peoples — are too serious to be mere spectacle: every concert is a mission, and we don't let a single one pass us by.

DIVINE SOUND is a musical laboratory born in Benin, creator of its own genre: **AYIKPAHOUN — the rhythm of awakening**. Its heritage rhythms — Massè, Djègbé, Kaka from Southern Benin, and Akpala from the Plateau region — merge with funk, pop, swing and blues.

On stage: interactive storytelling, refrains that stay with you, five musicians 100% live — an experience that transforms the audience as much as it makes them dance.

AYIKPAHOUN — the birth of a genre

Far from generic fusion, DIVINE SOUND operates like a musical research lab: Benin's heritage rhythms are confronted, broken down, then reassembled with modern structures.

HERITAGE RHYTHMS

Massè • Djègbé • Kaka

from Southern Benin

Akpala

from the Plateau — carried by the
Gangan



MODERN STRUCTURES

Funk • Pop

Swing • Blues

harmonies that international stages
recognize

A sound you recognize from the very first bars — as at home with a jazz festival crowd as with a world music audience.

The concert with a purpose

Between songs, words flow; within songs, the refrains teach. Written to be remembered and sung along to, they stay with young audiences long after the last note. People don't just leave with melodies — they leave with something to hold onto.

Every song is a facet of the same journey: the search for self — balance, acceptance, making peace with one's own history.

Beyond the curtain: workshops, school visits, meet-the-audience moments — every show becomes a genuine cultural act.

THE GANGAN

At the heart of AYIKPAHOUN, the talking drum — the instrument that carried messages from village to village long before the telephone.

"All of DIVINE SOUND is one talking drum."



Standing up to technology

DIVINE SOUND isn't against technology — the band simply refuses to let it take the lead. On stage, the electronic pad and keyboard effects serve the ancestral rhythms — never the other way around.

A musical answer to the excesses of our time: the overload that breaks social bonds, the illusion of self-sufficiency, cognitive laziness. Against this, the band stands for the intellectual and human effort passed down by our elders.



THE MOMENT THE MACHINE FALLS SILENT Only the Gangan remains, the drums, the voices, the breath. Without a word being said, the audience understands who is serving whom.

In the age of artificial intelligence, DIVINE SOUND brings a danceable answer to the debate.

The humanist ideal — a universal cultural bridge

When the drums of Southern Benin speak with piano and swing, two worlds long kept apart by history create together what neither could have made alone. The band lives this unity at home first: within AYIKPAHOUN, the rhythms of the South and the Akpala of the Plateau beat as one.

*Beyond our origins,
humanity is, at its core, one.*

Not a lesson, not a slogan — a lived experience of unity that every listener carries away with them.

BIOGRAPHY

Ten years, a track record built entirely live

2016

founding year

5

exceptional musicians

10 years

of touring and creating

From the ROOTS show (ORTB) to the Porto-Novo International Festival and the Institut Français du Bénin's Tremplin competition — built where you can't fake it: live, in front of an audience. From 9 down to 5 musicians: a refinement, not a loss.



2018 Talent Révélé award — Africa Sound City



2018 & 2019 Best 100% Live Composition — Star's Live



2019 International winner — MIA Festival

THE MASTERS OF THE ORCHESTRA

Five craftsmen, one genre



Franck HOUENOU

« *Francky Voice* »

Lead vocals

The voice of the concert with a purpose: telling, performing, passing it on.



Sidoine WANVOEGBE

« *Le Volcan* »

Percussion & Gangan

Keeper of the rhythmic treasure: Massè, Djègbé, Kaka, Akpala.



Ricardo LOKO

« *Rico Beat* »

Drums & pad

The machine in human hands — never the other way around.



Geoffroy AHOUNOU

« *Ahougef* »

Bass guitar

The connector: unity, proven note after note.



Hilaris M. SABI

« *H-KEY* »

Piano & keyboards

The harmonic architect, from swing to Beninese heritage.

DISCOGRAPHY

From Genèse to Renaissance: being born, then reborn

EP « GENÈSE »

September 28, 2023

- Sègla
- Vizédomingon
- Maman

Three tracks that lay the foundations of AYIKPAHOUN.

ALBUM « RENAISSANCE »

December 16, 2023 · 7 tracks — each one carries a lesson

Vizédomingon — the voice of fostered children · **Maman** — honoring our mothers · **Man non yavio** — life is a cycle · **Sétonou** — a song of awareness · **Tchôwhidé** — watch out · **Ayé** — the life humans complicate · **Bénin totché gnon** — a tribute to Benin



The album — on USB card

LISTEN SoundCloud: on.soundcloud.com/zHJ5VHbndG6ggAmM6 · YouTube: [@orchestredivinesoundbenin449](https://www.youtube.com/@orchestredivinesoundbenin449)

STAGES & PRODUCTIONS

Nine unbroken years on stage

2018–2019 ROOTS (ORTB) · Star's Live · MIA Festival · Africa Sound City

2020–2022 Centre Ouadada · Fête de la Musique (Porto-Novo) · Festival Couleur d'Afrique · Alliance Festival

2023–2024 Porto-Novo International Festival · Tremplin competition (Institut Français du Bénin) · Yes Papa · Project 7.7.7 · Simidjola Prod

2025–2026 Place Publique Welcom · Siège des Arts et de la Culture · Esprit Culture · Capitol Studio

EVENTS ORGANIZED BY DIVINE SOUND

"Renaissance" launch (Welcom, 2023) · Afro Jazz Nights 1 & 2 (2024)

Guest acts: Ayômikoun Brass Band (2024 winner, Rencontre des Fanfares du Bénin) · Africa Spirit

+600

attendees at the album launch

IN PICTURES

AYIKPAHOUN on stage

100% live



Facing the audience — the concert with a purpose, in action.

Photos: © Thiery Koudjou



CONTACT & MANAGEMENT

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Facebook: facebook.com/share/18TevLungg · Website: divinesoundbenin.com

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