

Solo and Ellika first met on the stage of a club in Stockholm in 1998.

There, Senegalese folk music or *griot* music, met the Swedish polska.

Solo is a bearer of his people's history from a very long story-telling tradition, Ellika's music has deep roots in the wildly joyous story-telling tradition of Bingsjö. Together they make music where song, combined with the kora's rhythmic flow, form a colourful platform for the polska.

Ellika & Solo have been playing together since then and have toured in the USA, Africa, Greenland and many parts of Europe.

Their ongoing dialogue between fiddle and kora feels just as exciting and unpredictable now as it did on their last outing.

Solo Cissokho, kora, is a griot, that is a musician-come-storyteller. He was born in Ziguinchor in Senegal and learnt to play the kora, the West African harp and instrument of the griot, at the age of seven. After a period as a musician touring Senegal with his own band, Solo moved first to France then Norway where he lives today, giving concerts and touring with Norwegian *Rikskonsserter*. Solo is an inquisitive player willing to test new contexts for his music. He has played not only with Norwegian folk musicians and the Indian violinist Subramaniam, but even with other African musicians such as Tore Kunda, Youssou N'Dour, and Ali Farka Touré.

Albums: latest productions - "From Senegal to Setesdal" with Kirsten Bråten Berg amongst others, and "Combonations" with musicians from Iran, China and India amongst other countries.

Ellika Frissel, fiddle, viola, is a folk musician, born in Stockholm who plays Swedish folk music in the Bingsjö- and Orsa traditions. She plays music given her by such masters as Nils Agenmark and Gustav Päckos, but also studies South Indian classical music with K. Shivakumar in Bombay. Ellika has played with many folk music groups such as *Filarfolket*, *Den Fule* and *Rosenbergs Sju*a and has also often worked in theatre projects and in other contexts where folk music interacts with new genre and ensembles.

Ellika is currently playing Iranian folk music in "Padik", is involved in two-man projects with Sven Ahlbäck and Mats Ede'n and often performs solo.

Albums: latest productions - "Rosenbergs Sjua" and the solo album "Tokpolska".

The new album, with the title "Abaraká!/Tack!" is a thank you from Ellika & Solo to their teachers and inspirations. The record, kicking off with a piece that Ellika learnt from her teacher Gustaf Päckos, contains 11 fantastic songs, partly written by Ellika & Solo and partly borrowed from their respective roots - Ellika's rich Bingsjö traditions and Solo's from the Cissokho family in Senegal.

The album was recorded at Home Studio in Revsund just outside Östersund, during the bitterly cold winter weeks of February 2005. Technician and co-producer was Sigge Krantz.

Ellika & Solo continue to break conventions. The period since their last album has seen the pair travelling and making new friends, with the result that Ellika & Solo have invited several other musicians to play on some of the songs on the new record. As Ellika says: "*The collaboration we have with one another and now with fellow musicians is founded solely in our desire to play together. You meet a musician that you feel you just have to play with and the sparks start to fly... It doesn't matter where you come from or what*

instrument you play. The language of folk music is a common one for folk musicians the world over and that makes communicating easy. There may appear to be a vast gulf between Sweden and Senegal, but there are many similarities and opportunities for interplay. Then when we met Bruce Molsky, the distance to the Appalachians seemed suddenly to shrink and American Old Time music to feel so near and so natural"

Amongst guests on the album are friend and fellow folk musician Bruce Molsky (fiddle, banjo, guitar, vocals) from the USA. Bruce, who has often been compared to Ry Cooder in his commitment to the music of the Appalachians, has a light touch and yet plays with great gusto, making fiddle music that is both modern and old-world, as headstrong as the music from Bingsjö. Solo recognises the banjo's sound from Senegal, which has a similar instrument, and the guitar and the kora intertwine perfectly.