

# JORDI SAVALL

## The Routes of Slavery

### PERFORMER & CREATIVE UPDATES

**Narrator:** Danielle Leneé

**La Capella Reial de Catalunya Addition:** Pieter Stas, baritone

Iván García is not appearing at this performance.

**Selection of Mali music:** Mohamed Diaby, Violet Diallo and 3MA

**Selection of Mexican and Colombian music:** Leopoldo Novoa

**Selection of Brazilian music:** Maria Juliana Linhares

**Selection of slave's songs & early gospel:** Jordi Savall

**Historical and literary research:** Sergi Grau, Manuel Forcano and Jordi Savall

**Text translation:** Jacqueline Minett

**Program concept, final musical and text selection:** Jordi Savall

**In memoriam:** Kassé Mady Diabaté (1949-2018)

### PROGRAM NOTES

#### **The Routes of Slavery**

#### **Memories of Slavery**

1444 (1865 USA) - 1888



**Music:** Percussions

**Narration (0):** Aristotle, *Politics*

Humanity is divided into two: Masters and Slaves.

Aristotle, *Politics*, 4th century BC

**Music:** Kora

**Narration (1):** 1444. Chronicle of the Discovery and Conquest of Guinea.

The voyage of Captain Lançarote de Freitas, for the service of the Infante Prince Henry, was the first major commercial venture of the Portuguese in West Africa.

**1. Djonya** (Introduction) – Improvisations by Mohamed Diaby

Lamentation: The African view of slavery.

**2. La Negrina: *San Sabeya gugurumbé*** – Mateo Flecha, the elder (1491-1553)

***Los Negritos / Gurumbé – Jarocho son (traditional)***

**3. *Vida ao Jongo*** (Jongo da Serrinha) – African tradition (Brazil) / Lazir Sinval

**Music:** Guitar (Romanesca)

**Narration (2):** 1505. On September 15 from Segovia, King Ferdinand the Catholic wrote a letter to Nicolas de Ovando.

**4. *Tambalagumbá*** (Negrilla for 6 v. & b.c.) – Juan Gutiérrez de Padilla (1590-1664), Mss. Puebla (1657)

**5. *Manden Mandinkadenou*** (Griot song) – Musical version and improvisations by Mohamed Diaby and Ballaké Sissoko

The pleasures of youth are destined to be forgotten, but the great deeds of heroes of the past are remembered long after them, especially when they brought peace to their homeland.

**Music:** Malimba

**Narration (3):** 1620. The first African slaves arrive in the English colonies. António Vieira, *Sermons*, 1661

**6. *Velo que bonito*** (San Antonio) – Traditional spiritual song (Pacific, Colombia)

**Music:** Percussions

**Narration (4):** 1657. Richard Ligon publishes *A True and Exact History of the Island of Barbadoes* at London, in which he describes the music of the slaves.

Richard Ligon, *A True and Exact History of Barbadoes*, 1657

**7. *Saí da casa*** (Ciranda) – Traditional / Escurinho (Brazil)

**Music:** Slow drums

**Narration (5):** 1661. The punishments of slaves in the “Slave Code of Barbados”.

Hans Sloane, *A Voyage to the islands*, London, 1706, vol. 1, p. lvii.

Jean-Baptiste Labat, *Nouveau Voyage aux Îles de l’Amérique*, Paris 1722, p. 248

**8. *Follow the drinking gourd*** – Slave song

**9. *Antonya, Flaciquia, Gasipà*** (Negro a 5) – Fray Filipe da Madre de Deus (ca. 1630-1690)

**Music:** Harp

**Narration (6):** 1685. The “Black Code” promulgated by Louis XIV.

**10. Another man done gone** – Slave song

**Music:** Malimba

**Narration (7):** 1748. Montesquieu, *On the Slavery of Negroes*.

Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*, Paris 1748

**11. Simbo** (Griot song) – Musical version and improvisations by Mohamed Diaby

The mythical hunter Mandé Mory, clear-sighted as the kingfisher (Kulandjan) is compared to the great hunter Soundiata and other hunter heroes.



**12. Awal** (instrumental and vocal) – Improvisations (Mamani Keita, Mohamed Diaby and Ballaké Sissoko)

**Music:** Guitar

**Narration (8):** 1772. Guillaume Raynal, *A philosophical and political history of the settlements and trade of the Europeans in the East and West Indies*: «Wretched condition of the slaves in America».

Guillaume-Thomas Raynal, *Histoire philosophique et politique des établissements et du commerce des Européens dans les deux Indes*, chap. X, Genève, 1772.

**13. Son de la Tirana: Mariquita, María** – Traditional (Costa Chica de Guerrero, Mexico)

**Music:** Kora

**Narration (9):** 1781. Thomas Jefferson, *Notes of the State of Virginia*.

**14. Tonada de El Chimo: Jaya llûnch, Jaya llôch** (Indian ritual song in Mochica language, for two voices, bass and tabor) – Anonymous, Codex Trujillo, No. 6 (E 180)

Baltazar [Baltasar] Martínez Compañón. Peru, Bolivia, ca. 1780.

**Music:** Harp

**Narration (10):** 1782. Abandoned by her master, the slave Belinda, aged 70 years, petitions the legislature of Massachusetts for a pension as reparations after a lifetime of labour.

**15. Tonada El Congo: A la mar me llevan** (For voices and bass, sung while dancing) – Anonymous, Codex Trujillo, No. 3 (E 178)

**Music:** Guitar

**Narration (11):** 1855. Abraham Lincoln wrote to Joshua Speed, a friend and slave owner in Kentucky.

**16. *I'm packing up*** – Slave song

**Music:** Harp

**Narration (12):** 1865. The 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution abolished slavery and involuntary servitude.

**17. *Amazing grace*** (Spiritual song) – John Newton (1779) / William Walker (1835)

**Narration (13):** 1963. “*Why we can't wait*” by Martin Luther King, Jr. (New York, 1963)

Martin Luther King, Jr. Nobel Peace Prize (1964), New York. Assassinated in Memphis on April 4, 1968.

## FINAL

**18. *Touramakan*** (Griot song) – Musical version and improvisations by Mohamed Diaby

Touramakan was Soundiata's half-brother and a ferocious warrior who became the general of the Emperor's troops and the ancestor of the Diabatés.

**Narration (14):** No place in the world can any longer put up with the slightest forgetting of a crime, the slightest shade cast over the mater. We ask that the parts of our history that have not been spoken be conjured up, so that – together, and liberated – we can enter into the *Tout-Monde*. And together, let us name the slave trade and the slavery perpetrated in the Americas and the Indian Ocean: Crime Against Humanity.

Extract from a petition sent by Edouard Glissant, Patrick Chamoiseau and Wole Soyinka to the Secretary General of the United Nations in 1998.