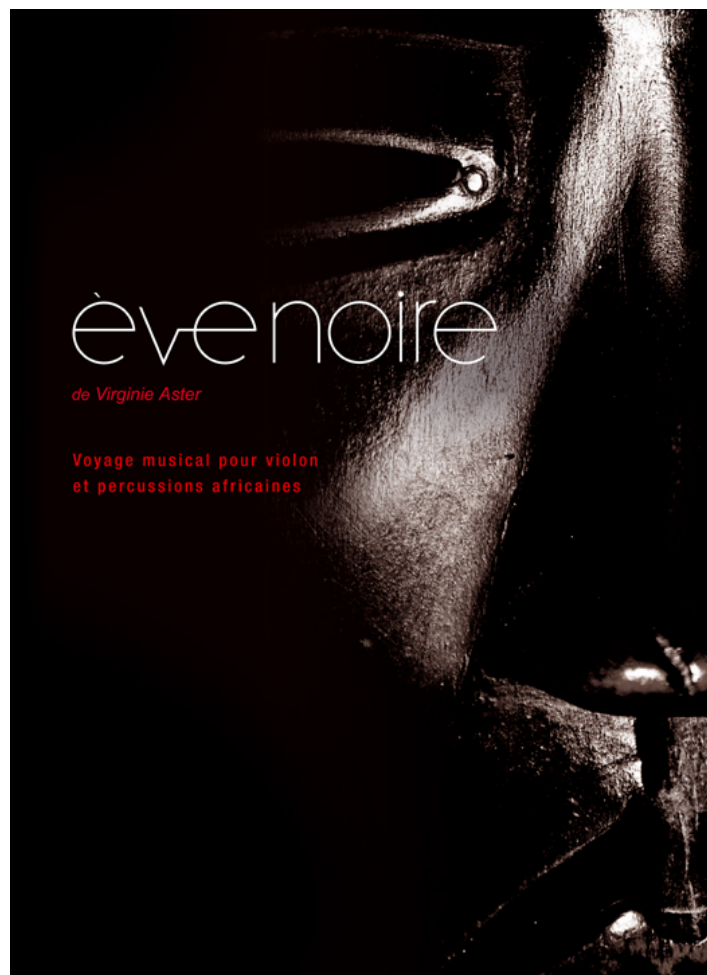


ève noire

A Musical Journey for Violin and African percussion



Virginie Aster – composer
Elsa Grether – violin
Oumarou Bambara – African percussion

Listen to excerpts from **Ève Noire**



www.eve-noire.com

ABOUT THE WORK

Ève Noire is a work for violin and African percussion born from the meeting of two musical traditions: Western classical music and the oral poetic tradition of West African percussion.

Composer and violinist **Virginie Aster** conceived the project following several stays in Africa, inspired by the idea of bringing together the wood of the violin and the horsehair of the bow with the wood of African drums and the skin of their membranes.

On stage, the two performers create a living dialogue in which timbres, melodies, rhythms and gestures respond to one another, revealing a shared musical energy. Music becomes storytelling, and the concert unfolds as a theatrical experience.

At the crossroads of the concert and the stage performance, **Ève Noire** offers an immersive and deeply expressive musical journey, driven by the performers' presence, the power of rhythm and the singing voice of the violin.

"I warmly recommend Virginie Aster's **Ève Noire**, an impressive work for violin and African percussion, remarkable for its coherence and exceptional expressive power."

René BOSC

Head of Musical Creation, Radio France (2000–2011)

"**Ève Noire** - what an evocative title! The blend of classical music and African drums is both captivating and exhilarating. This original composition transports us to the origins of the Black woman: mixed-race, passionate and enigmatic."

Ganiou SOGLO

Former Minister of Culture, Benin



WHY PRESENT ÈVE NOIRE?

Ève Noire has been conceived to adapt to a wide variety of performance contexts while preserving a strong artistic identity.

Its compact format (two performers) makes it suitable for venues of every scale, from concert halls and heritage sites to festivals and multidisciplinary venues.

The work is available in several formats—concert, stage version, young audiences version and educational workshops —allowing presenters to tailor the project to their audiences and programming needs.

Programming highlights

- compact ensemble (2 performers);
- several performance formats;
- adaptable duration;
- educational outreach activities;
- intercultural dialogue at the heart of the musical writing;
- a contemporary musical language combining artistic rigour with accessible listening;
- already presented in festivals.

Through its musical language, its flexible formats and the diversity of its artistic proposals, **Ève Noire** can naturally be included in classical music seasons, multidisciplinary festivals, heritage venues and educational programmes.



PERFORMANCE FORMATS

Concert Version - Duration: approximately 70 minutes

The reference version of **Ève Noire**, centred on the presence of the performers and the dialogue between violin and African percussion. It is suitable for concert seasons, festivals and heritage venues, both indoors and outdoors.

Stage Version - Duration: approximately 80 minutes

The stage version combines the music with a dedicated lighting design and video projections that extend the dramatic dimension of the work. It is intended for theatres equipped for stage productions and multidisciplinary festivals.

Young Audiences Version - Duration: approximately 40 minutes

Designed specifically for children and families, this version is a complete artistic work in its own right. It may be accompanied by an educational workshop.

Educational Workshops - Duration: tailored to each project

Presented either alongside a performance or independently, the outreach programme invites audiences into the artistic world of **Ève Noire**. It explores the creative process, the encounter between two musical traditions, as well as the instruments, performance techniques and compositional choices that shaped the work.

Depending on the audience, the programme may take the form of a pre-concert talk, an artist discussion or a participatory workshop.

Pre-recorded Sound Sequences

Whenever technical conditions allow, three short pre-recorded sound sequences punctuate the performance, extending the dialogue between the performers and enriching the musical dramaturgy.

VIRGINIE ASTER – COMPOSER



"I have followed Virginie Aster's work as a composer with great interest. Having led the Musical Creation Department at Radio France for ten years, with a particular focus on contemporary music, I wish to highlight the unquestionable craftsmanship and musical sensitivity that distinguish her work."

René Bosc

French composer Virginie Aster develops a body of work at the crossroads of contemporary music, the performing arts and intercultural dialogue. Trained at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse (CNSMD) de Paris and the École Normale de Musique de Paris, she has developed a distinctive musical language that is both rigorous and free, rooted in the discipline of the classical tradition while driven by a constant search for artistic cross-fertilisation.

Her artistic approach brings together music, visual arts, movement and literature in stage works where musical writing is combined with powerful expressive intensity.

Her compositions include *Sous Influences* for solo violin, praised by violinists Alexander Markov and Jean-Pierre Wallez; *Instantanés photographiques* for viola; *Suite géométrique* for two violins or two violas; *Substance* for flute and string trio, premiered by the Ensemble Hélios; *Elles* for piano four hands; and *Street Music* for solo violin. Conceived in dialogue with the world of Street Art, *Street Music* was recorded by violinist Eva Zavaro and premiered in collaboration with the street artist Jef Aérosol in 2025.

Alongside her work as a composer, Virginie Aster pursues research into stage presence and performance psychology for musicians and performing artists. Founder of L'Atelier du Trac (Performance Anxiety Studio) and Associate Professor at the CNSMD de Paris, she is the author of *Le Trac ou l'art d'être en scène (Performance Anxiety, or the Art of Being on Stage)*, published by Éditions Billaudot in 2026.

Virginie Aster's musical works are published by Éditions Billaudot

ELSA GRETHER – VIOLIN

"Elsa Grether is one of France's finest violinists, and it is high time that concert presenters fully recognised her remarkable artistry." **Concert Classic**

"Throughout these works, Grether displays striking expressiveness (...) and remarkable freedom of phrasing." **Diapason/ J. Bastianelli**

French violinist Elsa Grether is a regular guest at leading concert halls and international festivals, including Carnegie Weill Hall in New York, the Berlin Philharmonie, Les Folles Journées de Nantes, the Printemps des Arts de Monte-Carlo, the Festival Berlioz, Flagey and Bozar in Belgium, the Mozarteum in Salzburg, and the Palazzetto Bru Zane in Venice.



Her career combines the great works of the violin repertoire with a sustained commitment to distinctive artistic projects.

As a concerto soloist, she has performed the major works of the repertoire—from Bach, Mozart and Beethoven to Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Saint-Saëns, Sibelius, Dvořák, Prokofiev and Tomasi—with orchestras including the Orchestre National de Mulhouse, the Orchestre National de Cannes, the Orchestre de l'Armée de l'Air, the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Indiana Philharmonic Orchestra.

She has notably appeared at the Berlin Philharmonie and Les Invalides in Paris, where she performed Kurt Weill's Violin Concerto, Respighi's *Poema autunnale* and Ravel's *Kaddish* as soloist with the Orchestre de l'Armée de l'Air. She has also performed Sibelius's Violin Concerto with François-Xavier Roth and members of Les Siècles, as well as Tomasi's Violin Concerto with Jacques Lacombe and the Orchestre National de Mulhouse. She performs regularly in recital in Paris and throughout Europe.

Her internationally acclaimed discography includes Granada (Aparté, 2025), as well as the complete works for violin and piano by Ravel (Aparté, 2022) and Prokofiev (Outhere), recordings distinguished by Télérama, Classica, BBC Music Magazine and Diapason.

Winner of the Pro Musicis International Award, Elsa Grether is a regular guest on France Musique.

OUMAROU "MANDELA" BAMBARA – AFRICAN PERCUSSION



"Founded and led by Oumarou 'Mandela' Bambara, Kankélé blends West African traditions with jazz, funk and a powerful stage presence (...). Here, memory merges with rhythm, and groove carries the weight of the message."

Rhythm Passport, Daily Discovery – June 2025

"Around Oumarou Bambara, Kankélé elevates the musical traditions of Bobo-Dioulasso."

Le Monde Afrique, December 2024

Born in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, Oumarou Bambara grew up in the legendary district of Bolomakoté, a renowned centre of musical tradition where he was introduced to West African percussion from an early age by masters including Mahama Konaté, Soungalo Traoré and Paco Yé.

A multi-instrumentalist (balafon, djembe, tama, doumdoum and kamélé n'goni), he has developed a career at the crossroads of West African musical traditions and the contemporary European performing arts.

He has collaborated with leading theatre and street arts companies, including Transe Express, Royal de Luxe, Les Grandes Personnes, Georges Momboye and Hassan Kouyaté. He also composes and performs for contemporary dance companies, including Dife Kako, Les Alouettes Naïves and the Ballet de Lorraine, while collaborating with artists such as Amadou & Mariam, Mamady Keïta, Nicolas Frize and Eve Risser.

Founder of the group Kankélé, he released the album *Bala Groove* in 2025.

Oumarou performs regularly at festivals in France and abroad, including Festival Afrika Esch (Luxembourg), Glaz'Art (Paris), African Night (Eupen, Belgium), Festival Africolor, Solidays, Festival Musique de Jazz et d'Ailleurs (Amiens) and Les Couleurs du Jazz (Essonne)...

Oumarou Bambara embodies a living bridge between the musical traditions of West Africa and the contemporary European performing arts.

CONFIRMED PERFORMANCES

6 April 2027 – *Ève Noire* concert
Conservatoire à Rayonnement Régional (CRR), Reims, France

5 April 2027 – Educational workshops around *Ève Noire*
Conservatoire à Rayonnement Régional (CRR), Reims, France

10 December 2026 – *Ève Noire* concert
Théâtre Aleph, Ivry-sur-Seine, France

21 May 2026 – *Ève Noire* concert (Festival opening event)
Festival Cordes sur Ciel, Cordes-sur-Ciel, France

18 April 2026 – *Ève Noire* concert
Festival Présence Compositrices, Abbaye de La Celle, France

29 March 2026 – *Ève Noire* concert
Festival Hors Saison Musicale, Venarey-les-Laumes, France

28 March 2026 – Community performances for underserved audiences
Festival Hors Saison Musicale, Venarey-les-Laumes, France

15 February 2026 – *Ève Noire* concert
Festival Hors Saison Musicale, Saint-Plantaire, France

13–14 February 2026 – Educational workshops around *Ève Noire*
Festival Hors Saison Musicale, Saint-Plantaire, France

PROJECT NEWS

Summer 2026 – Recording of the *Ève Noire* album completed.
The album is currently being prepared for release.

CONTACTS

Artistic Direction • Record Production • Project Management

Virginie Aster

va@aster-musique.com
Tél. +33 (0) 603 84 37 16

Concert Booking

Virginie Aster

(see contact details above)

Elsa Grether

elsa.grether@yahoo.com
Tél. +33 (0) 624 99 28 81

RESOURCES

ÈVE NOIRE

Official project website (audio excerpts)
www.eve-noire.com

VIRGINIE ASTER

Official website
www.aster-musique.com

ELSA GRETHER

Official website
www.elsagrether.com

OUMAROU BAMBARA

Official website
www.oumarou-bambara.weebly.com