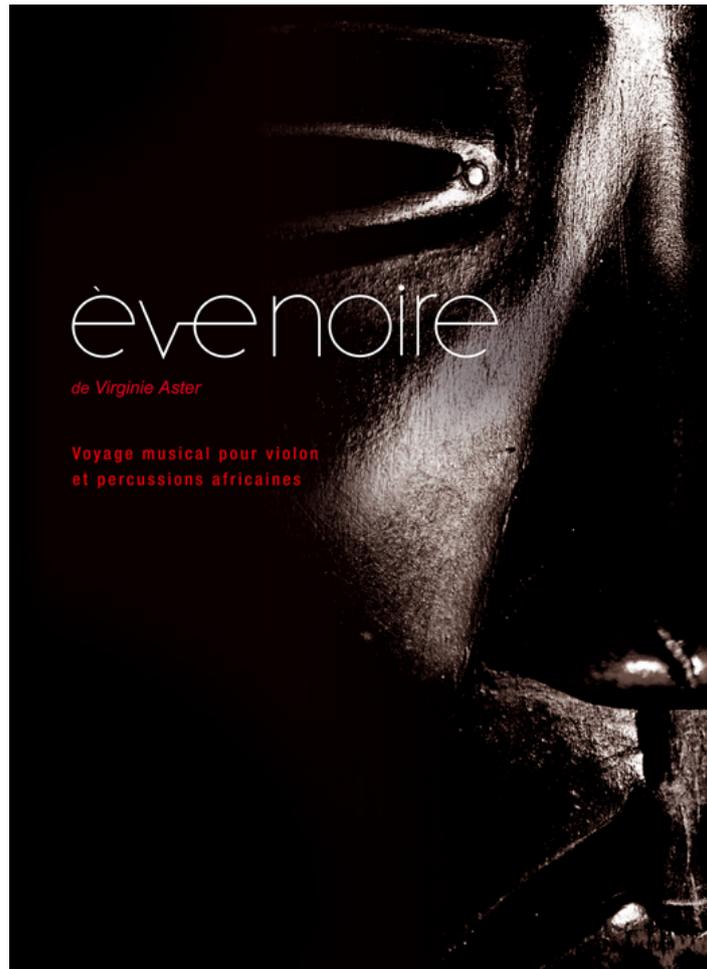


# èvenoire

**A musical journey for violin and African percussion**



**Virginie Aster** – composition  
**Elsa Grether** – violin  
**Oumarou Bambara** – percussion

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

**Ève Noire** is a powerful musical encounter between two traditions: Western classical violin and the vibrant rhythmic language of West African percussion.

Created by French composer and violinist **Virginie Aster**, the project was born from several artistic journeys in Africa and from a desire to create a dialogue between written classical music and the oral traditions of African rhythm.

On stage, violin and percussion engage in an intense and living exchange. Timbres, gestures and rhythmic energies intertwine, transforming the concert into a vivid narrative experience.

At the crossroads of concert performance and theatrical form, **Ève Noire** offers an immersive musical journey driven by rhythm, presence and storytelling.

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“I warmly recommend **Ève Noire** by Virginie Aster. It is an impressive work for violin and African percussion, with a cohesion and expressive power rarely achieved.”

**René Bosc**

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

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“**Ève Noire** — what an evocative title. The fusion of classical music and African drums is intoxicating and exhilarating.”

**Ganiou Soglo**

Former Minister of Culture of Benin

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## WHY PROGRAM ÈVE NOIRE

**Ève Noire** offers a unique and accessible contemporary music experience, built on the encounter between two complementary musical worlds.

The project speaks to a wide range of audiences while maintaining strong artistic integrity.

### Key features

- flexible formats
- adaptable duration
- intercultural dialogue
- strong stage presence
- suitable for festivals and multidisciplinary venues
- educational and outreach activities available
- light touring setup (2 performers)

Ève Noire fits naturally in concert seasons, festivals, heritage venues and interdisciplinary programmes.



## PERFORMANCE FORMATS

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### Concert version

**Duration:** approx. 70 minutes

A concert form centred on the dialogue between violin and percussion.  
Suitable for festivals, concert series and heritage venues, both indoor and outdoor.

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### Stage production

**Duration:** approx. 80 minutes

An expanded stage version including lighting design and video projections, creating a fully immersive performance where image and music interact.

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### Family / young audience version

**Duration:** approx. 40 minutes

A shorter format designed for families and younger audiences, with excerpts from the work and optional educational workshops.

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## VIRGINIE ASTER – COMPOSER



*“I have taken great interest in the compositional work of Virginie Aster. Having headed the Musical Creation Department at Radio France for ten years, I wish to emphasize the undeniable qualities that emerge from her craft and musical sensitivity.”*

**René Bosc**

*“In every configuration, instrumental or vocal, Virginie asserts her voice — a singular voice, a voice that does not lie.”*

**Alexis Galpérine**

French composer **Virginie Aster** develops a body of work at the crossroads of contemporary music, stage performance and intercultural dialogue. Trained at the Paris Conservatoire (CNSMDP) and the École Normale de Musique de Paris, she has developed a personal musical language that is both rigorous and free, nourished by the classical tradition and by a constant search for artistic transversality.

Her artistic approach combines music, visual arts, movement and literature in immersive stage forms where compositional precision meets strong expressive intensity.

Her works include *Sous Influences* for solo violin, praised by violinists Alexander Markov and Jean-Pierre Wallez; *Instants photographiques* for viola; *Suite géométrique* for violin or viola duos; *Substance* for flute and string trio, premiered by Ensemble Hélios; *Elles* for piano four hands; and *Street Music* for solo violin.

The latter, conceived in dialogue with the world of Street Art, was recorded by violinist Eva Zavaro and premiered in collaboration with the artist Jef Aérosol in 2025.

Alongside her activity as a composer, Virginie Aster is also recognized for her work on stage fright and stage presence among performing artists. Founder of Atelier du Trac and professor at the Paris Conservatoire (CNSMDP), she supports musicians, dancers, singers and actors in developing a free and embodied artistic expression.

Her book *Le Trac ou l’art d’être en scène*, published by Éditions Billaudot, was released in March 2026.

**Her works are published by Éditions Billaudot.**

## ELSA GREETHER - VIOLIN

*“Elsa Grether is one of our great violinists, and it is time for concert presenters to fully realize it.”* **Concertclassic**

*“This is without a doubt my favourite solo recital in quite some time.”* **Gramophone**

*“In all these works, Grether brings striking expressivity (...) and great freedom in phrasing.”* **Diapason/ J. Bastianelli**



**I**nternationally acclaimed French violinist **Elsa Grether** performs regularly in prestigious venues and festivals including Carnegie Weill Hall (New York), the Berlin Philharmonie, La Folle Journée de Nantes, the Printemps des Arts de Monte-Carlo, Festival Berlioz, Flagey and Bozar in Belgium, the Mozarteum in Salzburg and the Palazzetto Bru Zane in Venice.

As a soloist with orchestra, she has performed major concertos from Bach, Mozart and Beethoven to Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Saint-Saëns, Sibelius, Dvořák, Prokofiev and Tomasi, with orchestras such as the Orchestres Nationaux de Mulhouse and Cannes, the Orchestre de l'Armée de l'Air, the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra and the Indiana Philharmonic Orchestra.

Recent highlights include a recital at the Berlin Philharmonie, performances of Kurt Weill's Violin Concerto, Respighi's Poema Autunnale, and Ravel's Kaddish in Paris with the Orchestre de l'Armée de l'Air, Sibelius' Violin Concerto with François-Xavier Roth and musicians from Les Siècles, 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), the complete works for violin and piano by Maurice Ravel (Aparté, 2022)

These recordings received numerous distinctions, including BBC Music Magazine and Diapason (4 stars), Télérama FFFF and Classica 5 stars.

**Winner of the Pro Musicis International Prize, Elsa Grether is regularly featured on the radio France Musique.**

## OUMAROU "MANDELA" BAMBARA - PERCUSSION



*“Founded and led by Oumarou ‘Mandela’ Bambara, the group Kankélé blends West African traditions with jazz, funk and a powerful stage energy (...). Here memory dissolves into 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**

**B**orn in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, Oumarou Bambara grew up in the legendary Bolomakoté district, a vibrant musical hub where he was initiated from childhood into traditional percussion by masters such as Mahama Konaté, Soungalo Traoré and Paco Yé.

A multi-instrumentalist — balafon, djembe, tama, doumdoum and kamélé n’goni — he has established himself as an artist in constant motion, bridging West African traditions and contemporary European stages.

He collaborates with major 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 such as Dife Kako, Les Alouettes Naïves and the Ballet de Lorraine, and has collaborated with artists including Amadou & Mariam, Mamady Keïta, Nicolas Frize and Eve Risser.

Founder of the group Kankélé, his latest album *Bala Groove* (2025) confirms an open and engaged artistic identity.

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

Oumarou embodies a bridge between West African traditions and contemporary European stages.

**An inspired and inspiring artist, free, rooted and deeply human.**

## CALENDAR

### Confirmed dates (France)

#### Concert version & educational activities

##### 13–14 February 2026

Educational workshops around Ève Noire  
Hors Saison Musicale Festival — Saint-Plantaire

##### 15 February 2026

Ève Noire concert  
Hors Saison Musicale Festival — Saint-Plantaire

##### 28 March 2026

Shared concerts (for underserved audiences)  
Hors Saison Musicale Festival — Venarey-les-Laumes

##### 29 March 2026

Ève Noire concert  
Hors Saison Musicale Festival — Venarey-les-Laumes

##### 18 April 2026

Ève Noire concert  
Présence Compositrices Festival — Abbaye de la Celle

##### 21 May 2026

Ève Noire concert – festival presentation  
Cordes sur Ciel Festival — Cordes-sur-Ciel

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#### Stage production

##### 17 October 2026

Ève Noire – stage production version  
Théâtre Aleph — Ivry-sur-Seine

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#### Recording

##### February 2027

Release of the Ève Noire recording  
ACEL Label

## **CONTACTS**

### **Production / Booking**

**Virginie Aster**

**va@aster-musique.com**

**Tél. +33 (0) 603 84 37 16**

### **Recording production**

**ACEL Label**

**acel.contact@gmail.com**

**Tél. +33 (0) 623 77 63 18**

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## **RESOURCES**

### **ÈVE NOIRE**

Project website (including 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**