

New musicians

In Dakar young people enjoy making music. Some African artists want to move to Europe or America. They think it is easier to make music there. Perhaps they will make more money. Other artists decide to stay in Africa. Some live abroad for some years and come back.

Jah Moko was a music producer in France for 10 years. He left and came back to live in Senegal. His band, the Jah Moko Family, is based in Dakar.

Jah's music mixes West African Reggae and Afro-Beat. He likes the sound of traditional music too. The band comes from all over Africa. Some came to start a new life in Senegal because the situation was bad at home. There are nine members from Mali, Benin, Senegal, Central African Republic and France. The band is really international and they sing in many languages, including French and English.

But it is not easy for a young musician. It is difficult to earn money from making music. It costs a lot of money to have a show in a popular venue. Most young musicians don't have that kind of money. In the past, artists worked for a record company and the record company paid. Now people use the internet and local radio to contact fans directly. Many have other jobs to pay for their music. For example, the guitar player in The Jah Moko Family is an architect during the day and a musician in the evening.

People know the situation is difficult, but some see a good future in African music. They want to help young people with the same dreams and have started small businesses. An example is Mandinko. This started in the Ouakam district in Dakar. The boss is Freeman. He wants to create a cultural space for new African artists.

The stories people tell in the music are also different now. In the past musicians wrote personal stories. Now people write more about problems in society.

New words for this article

- | | | |
|---|------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | abroad | in another country |
| 2 | mix | to put two or many things together |
| 3 | band | group of musicians |
| 4 | earn money | to make money from a job |

Comprehension Questions –

Indiquez si les expressions suivantes sont vraies (True) ou fausses (False).

1. Artists go abroad to have an easy life.
2. Jah Moko worked in Dakar for 10 years
3. The Jah Moko Family come from 9 different countries
4. Musicians use social media to contact fans
5. People take more than 3 jobs to pay for their music

- Comprehension questions -**
- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1 | True |
| 2 | False |
| 3 | False |
| 4 | True |
| 5 | False |

Answers