

FIRST PAPER ASSIGNMENT

Your first paper assignment is to write a musical analysis comparing **two** out of the following **three** versions of the song by Senegalese singer Nder.

1. Lemzo Diamono, “Boul ko fowe” (1992)

This first version is from the cassette “Jom,” released in Senegal in 1992. Lemzo Diamono was an mbalax group led by Senegalese guitarist Lamine Faye; Nder was at this time one of several vocalists for the group, but he was the featured soloist in this song. Please note that this song was not stylistically considered a “typical” mbalax song

2. Nder & le Setsima Group, “Drogue” (2000)

By this time, Nder has launched his solo career and has formed his own group. He released this version of this song in 2000 on a CD for the European and North American market. The voice and violin tracks were recorded in Dakar in 1998, and originally released in yet another version with Senegalese keyboards; however, in this version, the original keyboard part was taken out, and replaced by those of famed Frenchman Jean-Philippe Rykiel.

3. Nder & le Setsima Group, “Drogue – live version” (2002)

This version was recorded live at the Kily nightclub in Dakar and released on a cassette entitled “Takussaan à Dakar – Live” in 2002. This version exemplifies the modern mbalax sound.

After deciding which two versions you want to write about, you should listen to both songs multiple times, taking down extensive notes regarding the musical characteristics. You may want to discuss issues such as instrumentation, vocal quality, melody and/or harmony, texture, rhythm, tempo, and form. What do these versions have in common, and how are they different from each other? Feel free to use the “Vocabulary for cross-cultural analysis” handout as a guide.

Your paper should be 3-4 pages long, typed, 12 font, single-sided, and double-spaced. It should also have a title and page numbers. As with all good papers, your paper should have a clear and interesting THESIS. Your thesis should stem from your musical analysis.

The paper is due at the beginning of class next **THURSDAY, February 17**. You must hand in a hard copy of your paper. Electronic versions of the paper will only be accepted after consultation with the professor. Late papers will be downgraded accordingly.