

# BLAKE ZIDELL & ASSOCIATES

For Immediate Release  
March 15, 2012

## **NEW AMADOU & MARIAM STUDIO ALBUM, *FOLILA*, TO BE RELEASED APRIL 10 BY BECAUSE MUSIC / NONESUCH RECORDS**

Over the course of the last several years, **Amadou & Mariam**'s music has become increasingly expansive, while remaining anchored by their trademark West African blues-rock. Manu Chao and Gorillaz front man Damon Albarn, in addition to their longtime producer/manager Marc-Antoine Moreau, have produced their recordings. In the same spirit of openness, the self-billed Blind Couple from Mali played a key role in Albarn's multi-artist Africa Express concerts, and, more recently, performed informal *L'Afrik C'est Chic* jam sessions with various special guests in London and New York. ***Folila*** epitomizes their embrace of collaboration, with contributions by **Santigold, TV on the Radio, Nick Zinner, Theophilus London, Bassekou Kouyate** and others. Because Music / Nonesuch Records releases the album **April 10**.

*Folila* is produced by **Marc-Antoine Moreau**, who has worked with the duo since their 1999 debut, *Sou Ni Tilé*. They recorded the songs in New York, and then re-recorded them, with more traditional instrumentation, in Bamako. The version of each song on the final album is a composite of tracks from both sessions, meticulously mixed together. From the first few seconds of the opening track, "Dougou Badia," the music is instantly recognizable, with Amadou's signature electric guitar soon joined by Mariam's distinctive voice. Santigold, who co-wrote the song with Mariam, joins her on vocals. Nick Zinner (Yeah Yeah Yeahs) complements Amadou on guitar on this and other tracks.

Other notable collaborations include "Wily Kataso," featuring TV on the Radio, and "Nebe Miri," with the hip-hop artist Theophilus London. Bassekou Kouyate, another Malian artist who has accomplished a remarkable crossover in the U.S., plays *ngoni* on several songs.

*Folila* is the first Amadou & Mariam studio album since *Welcome to Mali*, one of the most critically acclaimed recordings of 2009. An 8.4 review in *Pitchfork* said, "*Inevitable* is a good word for the stardom of Amadou & Mariam. People this amazingly talented and open to new sounds and ideas rarely remain obscure, especially after so many years honing their craft and building their catalog...This album is an affirmation of global connectivity and an emerging global culture that transcends and repurposes tradition as it sees fit—the sound of Mali merging with the world at large." Indeed, the album won them their second Grammy nomination, a performance on "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon," opening slots in stadium shows with Coldplay and U2, and plaudits from *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *TIME*, *SPIN*, *Rolling Stone*, *FADER* and many others.

**For more information, please contact Blake Zidell or Yuri Kwon at  
Blake Zidell & Associates, 718.643.9052, [blake@blakezidell.com](mailto:blake@blakezidell.com) or [yuri@blakezidell.com](mailto:yuri@blakezidell.com).**