

## IMPORTANT TERMS IN SABAR DRUMMING

As a spoken language, Wolof is a very old one. *Standardized* written Wolof is relatively new, and still evolving. Words from older resources reflect the influence of the French language; contemporary spellings replace letter combinations such as th- or di- with c- or j-, respectively. This makes searching for, interpreting, and comparing names a very confusing endeavor. The various spellings below come from sources including academic publications, dictionaries, recording liner notes, and also from Senegalese drummers and acquaintances. It is not an exhaustive list!

### GENERAL

**Bàkk/bak/back:** a non-cyclic rhythmic statement of varying length, sometimes based on a *taasu*

**dimb:** the wood out of which most sabar drums are carved

**galen/galeñ:** the stick (usually either **sump** or **daqar**) used to play sabar drums; also the rhythm played on the drum's shell to establish tempo and feel

**gëwël/géwal/guewëul:** the traditional social caste of Wolof oral historians who also specialize in sabar drumming.

**Kaolack:** the name of a dance rhythm, and also of a region and a town in Senegal

**mbalax/mbalakh:** the rhythmic and time-keeping pattern central to all sabar music, and played primarily on the mbëng mbëng

**ndënd:** general Wolof word for all sabar drums

**taasu:** language spoken rhythmically

**Wolof:** the primary indigenous language spoken in Senegal

**Lebou & Serer:** ethnic groups that play sabar

### DRUMS

**cól/thiol:** the lower-pitched of the closed-bottom drums

**talmbat/gorong talmbat:** the higher-pitched of the closed-bottom drums

**gorong yeguel/gorong mbabass:** a closed-bottom drum with straps for making the head very tight

**nder:** the tallest of the open-bottom drums

**mbëng mbëng:** the middle-sized of the open-bottom drums, and the one which plays mbalax

**tungune:** the shortest of the open-bottom drums

**xin/xiin/khine:** the cylindrical, single-headed drum played by the Baay Fall, followers of Cheikh Ibra Fall.

### DANCE RHYTHMS (SELECTED)

Kaolack/Ndëc

Lëmbël

Ceebujën/Thieboudien

Ardin

Bara Mbaye

Farwujar

Yaaba

Mbabass/Ñari gorong

### TAASU

#### Ya ñu mom

*Ya ñu mom*

I am yours

*Bu ñu dem dak, bu ñuy dee yëpp*

From birth until death

*Ya ñu mom*

I am yours

*Xadim*

(My) guardian

*Ya ñu mom*

I am yours

**Loma digal digal**

*Loma digal digal*

All that you advise

*Loma digal ma def*

All that you tell me I will do

*Fi, kër gi, ku fi nekk*

Here, this house (and) all the people in it

*warngay dégloo*

must listen, then learn.

*Teydégloo, teydégloo, ndigal*

Listen now, take heed of the advice

*Jëf, jëf, jëf!*

Act, act, act!

*Jëfloo baax mo*

When you do a good thing,

*Diarra def, Niébé gore.*

like honest Niébé, it matters.