

# KUNBE

## KUNBE – *FANGA*

LP – 2025

### BIOGRAPHY

**FANGA**, meaning *strength, energy, unity and power* in Bambara (Dioula), is the second album by **KUNBE**. It represents the culmination of over ten years of musical collaboration between French and Malian artists, and embodies an inspired fusion of Mali's traditional and contemporary rhythms with the raw energy of Western rock.

#### Origins: Rock and openness to the world

The story begins in the early 1990s in western France. Three brothers — **Vincent, Jean-Louis and Antoine Livenais**, from Vallons-de-l'Erdre near Nantes — form the punk-rock band **Caline Georgette**. Their album *Des clous* (1992) and their selection for the **Printemps de Bourges festival in 1993** mark the start of an intense musical journey, shaped by extensive touring across France and Europe.

Early on, the Livenais brothers turn their attention to Africa. In 1994, their collaboration with **Jimi Hope**, an iconic figure of Togolese rock, leads to the album *Tôt ou tard*, considered a pioneering work of Afro-rock fusion. This project takes them on their first West African tour and to a notable appearance at the **Francofolies de La Rochelle (1995)**.

#### A lasting Afro-rock dynamic

In 1997, their artistic commitment deepens with the production in Abidjan of the first album by the **Yelemba d'Abidjan** troupe, laying the foundations for long-term collaborations between European and African artists.

In 2000, they form **Akeikoi**, an innovative Afro-rock collective that releases two albums (*Binkafô* in 2002 and *Sénoufo* in 2010) and performs for over a decade on French and international stages.

## The birth of KUNBE

In 2012, during a professional training mission in Bamako, **Vincent Livenais** meets **Oumar Diallo**, a leading Malian musician and producer (Ali Farka Touré, Oumou Sangaré...). This artistic collaboration gives rise to **KUNBE** — meaning “*meeting*” in Bambara — bringing together the Livenais brothers and four Malian musicians, including singer **Mountaga Diabaté**, who has collaborated with **Salif Keita**, **Toumani Diabaté**, **Oumou Sangaré**, the **Super Rail Band**, and **M (Lamomali)**.

From 2013 onwards, KUNBE performs extensively in France and releases its debut album **Bamako Groove** in 2015, co-produced by **Adjololo System** and **Yeleen Production**.

## Stages and cross-disciplinary projects

Between 2015 and 2019, KUNBE tours intensively across France, Europe and West Africa (Mali, Niger, Togo, Benin), performing at major festivals such as **Afrik’o’bendy**, **Les Traver’Cé Musicales**, **Afrika Festival**, **Les Nuits Mandingues**, **Le Chabada**, **Africajarc**, **Wassa Africa**, among many others.

Alongside this, in 2019 the Livenais brothers initiate **Homo Natura**, a unique musical and choreographic performance driven by the music of **Akeikoi**, bringing together **14 French and Ivorian artists**, including several members of the **Yelemba d’Abidjan** troupe. Conceived as a powerful artistic manifesto for the planet, the project blends live music, dance and narrative storytelling around environmental issues. Premiered in France in 2022, *Homo Natura* enjoys strong public success, praised for its emotional impact and the strength of its message.

## FANGA: the power of the collective

In 2021, the Malian musicians reunite with the Livenais brothers in France to work on a second album, with the participation of singer **Issa Bamba**, son of the legendary **Sory Bamba**.

This collaboration gives birth to **FANGA**, a dense and vibrant album celebrating the full diversity of Malian music — from Wassoulou to Sahelian rhythms, from Bambara songs to contemporary influences — in constant dialogue with the band’s rock roots.

# SHORT PRESENTATIONS

1- **KUNBE**, meaning “*meeting*” in Bambara, was formed in Bamako in 2012 through the collaboration between the Livenais brothers, rock musicians from western France, and renowned Malian artists. Driven by Manding rhythms and the energy of Western rock, the band crafts a powerful fusion of African traditions and contemporary music. After *Bamako Groove* (2015), KUNBE returns with **FANGA**, a musical manifesto of strength and unity.

2- Formed in Bamako, **KUNBE** brings together outstanding Malian musicians and the Livenais brothers, key figures of the Nantes rock scene. For over ten years, they have been shaping a music born from the fusion of hypnotic African melodies and raw Western rock energy.

With **FANGA**, KUNBE offers an intense and sensitive sonic journey where tradition and modernity meet beyond borders — music that moves the body as much as it touches the soul.

3- KUNBE was formed in Bamako in 2012 through the collaboration between the Livenais brothers, French rock musicians, and renowned Malian artists. Their music fuses Manding rhythms, Bambara songs and Western rock energy. After *Bamako Groove* (2015), the band returns with **FANGA** (2025), a powerful album celebrating the strength of the collective and cross-cultural dialogue.

## PITCH

**KUNBE** is the meeting point of two worlds: the warmth of West African music and the power of French rock. Formed in Bamako, the band brings together exceptional Malian musicians and the Livenais brothers, figures of the Nantes rock scene.

With **FANGA**, their new album, KUNBE celebrates the power of the collective, the richness of musical dialogue, and the strength of cultural connection.

## LP – **FANGA**

**FANGA**, KUNBE's new album, embodies over ten years of artistic collaboration between French and Malian musicians. The band asserts a refined fusion, blending the captivating melodies of West Africa with the energy of Western pop-rock.

Through each track, **FANGA** weaves a vibrant link between tradition and modernity, emotion and power. A bold, authentic, borderless music that builds bridges between cultures and invites listeners on an intense and deeply human sonic journey.

