

September 1, 2022  
For Immediate Release

**Tinariwen Announce Reissue of *Kel Tinariwen*,  
Cassette-Only Album Originally Released in 1992, Out November 4th via  
Wedge**

**[Listen To Lead Single, “Arghane Manin”](#)**

**Craft Recordings To Also Reissue *Aman Iman: Water Is Life* (2007) and  
*Imidiwan: Companions* (2009) For The First Time On Vinyl on November 4th**

**North American Tour Kicks Off September 9th**



(Photo courtesy of Tinariwen)

Touareg collective **Tinariwen** are thrilled to announce the reissue of ***Kel Tinariwen***, marking the project's first-ever official release since it appeared in 1992 locally in Mali on cassette, **out November 4th via Wedge**. In conjunction, they share its lead single and album closer, **“Arghane Manine.”** The track skips with percussion, grooving bass, and twangs of electric guitar. Across “Arghane Manine,” vocals call back and forth to each other. *Kel Tinariwen* will see release alongside two additional Tinariwen reissues, ***Aman Iman: Water Is Life*** and ***Imidiwan: Companion***, out for the first time on vinyl the same day via **Craft Recordings**.

### [Listen “Arghane Manin” by Tinariwen](#)

A revelatory discovery in the Tinariwen archives, *Kel Tinariwen* is an early cassette tape recorded in the early 90s that never received a wider release, and sheds new light on the band's already rich history. Not having yet developed the fuller band sound they became internationally established with, *Kel Tinariwen* features their trademark hypnotic guitar lines and call-and-response vocals weaving in between raw drum machine rhythms and keyboard melodies that almost evoke an Arabic take on 80s synth-pop.

In the summer of 1991, four members of Tinariwen traveled to Abidjan in Ivory Coast to record the band's first official release, *Kel Tinariwen*. They were **Abdallah Ag Alhousseyni, Hassan Ag Touhami aka ‘Abin Abin,’ Kedou Ag Ossad and Liya Ag Ablil aka ‘Diarra.’** The project was the brainchild of **Keltoum Sennhauser**, a painter, poet and songwriter of mixed parentage (her father was a Sonhrai, her mother a Touareg), who grew up partly in Bamako, partly in the Kidal region of north-eastern Mali, the homeland of all the members of Tinariwen. Like so many Touareg from that region, Keltoum and her family had been forced to emigrate by the droughts that tore the Touareg world apart in the mid-1970s and 1980s, as well as all the oppression and suffering that had followed independence in 1960. Keltoum became deeply involved in the Touareg struggle for freedom and self-determination and saw music in general and music of Tinariwen in particular as an essential part of that struggle.

*Kel Tinariwen* was never heard outside of the local community that traded cassettes back in 1992 - an activity that was important to the movement, as Keltoum explains: *“I think the cassette played a crucial role as a tool of communication, a tool that was very dear to us. It served to raise awareness and awaken the consciences of those who felt that everything was already lost, or that we didn’t have the wherewithal to win our struggle. It allowed the Touareg world to develop its own conscience and move forward. In our milieu, the only thing that can make us question ourselves is music. Because we listen to a lot of music, we love music, we love poetry. We don’t read. We’re not a people who read. So, the only reading we have, about ourselves and about the outside world, is music.”* Thirty years later, the album is finally seeing an official release, on vinyl, CD, and cassette to pay homage to its original format.

There's distinct parallels with the sounds found on this tape and the work uncovered in recent years by crate-digger labels such as Awesome Tapes From Africa, Sahel Sounds and Sublime

Frequencies. ***Aman Iman: Water Is Life*** and ***Imidiwan: Companion*** are Tinariwen's third and fourth studio albums respectively. It's a blend of West African traditional music and electrified rock'n'roll – a sound that critics have called “desert blues.”

Alongside *Kel Tinariwen*, Tinariwen are also reissuing ***Aman Iman: Water Is Life*** and ***Imidiwan: Companions*** - their third and fourth studio albums respectively. A blend of West African traditional music and electrified rock'n'roll – a sound that critics have called “desert blues.” *Aman Iman: Water Is Life* was Tinariwen's third studio album, originally released in 2007, and recorded in Mali's capital, Bamako. Produced by **Justin Adams** (Robert Plant's guitarist and producer of the Tinariwen's debut album *The Radio Tisdas Sessions*), and recording engineer **Ben Findlay**. The whole Tinariwen story breathes through its twelve songs, beginning with the first Touareg rebellion of 1963, which lies at the root of so much pain and trauma in the Malian Touareg mindset and which is vividly recalled by Ibrahim in his brooding song ‘Soixante Trois.’

*Imidiwan: Companions* was the band's fourth album, and it possesses all the elements that have made them so alluring; raw simplicity, melodic beauty, songs ranging from the epic and universal to the intimate and personal. The 13-track album, produced by **Jean-Paul Romann**, was recorded in Tessalit, the Malian desert village home of band members Ibrahim Ag Alhabib and Hassan Ag Touhami.

In advance of the three reissues' release, Tinariwen will return stateside for a North American tour this September and October. After appearances at **End of the Road, Manchester Psych Fest**, and **The Spree Festival in the UK**, Tinariwen will kick off their North American tour in **Chicago on Fri. Sept. 9th**. Tickets are on-sale now and available at [tinariwen.com/tour](http://tinariwen.com/tour).

[\*\*Pre-order \*Kel Tinariwen, Aman Iman: Water Is Life\* and \*Imidiwan: Companions\* Reissues\*\*](#)

***Kel Tinariwen* Tracklist:**

1. À L'Histoire
2. Khedou Khedou
3. Adounia Tarha
4. Matadjem Yinmexan
5. Awa Idjan War Infa Iman
6. Sendad Eghlalan
7. Sendad Eghlalan
8. Arghane Manine

***Aman Iman: Water Is Life* Tracklist:**

1. Cler Achel
2. Mano Dayak
3. Matadjem Yinmixan

4. Ahimana
5. Soixante Trois
6. Toumast
7. Imidiwan WinakaliN
8. Awa Didjen
9. Ikyadarh Dim
10. Tamatant Tilay
11. Assouf
12. Izarharh Tenere

***Imidiwan: Companions Tracklist:***

1. Imidiwan Afrik Tendam
2. Lulla
3. Tenhert
4. Enseqi Ehad Didagh
5. Tahult In
6. Tamodjerazt Assis
7. Intitlayaghen
8. Imazighen N Adagh
9. Tenalle Chegret
10. Kel Tamashek
11. Assuf Ag Assuf
12. Chabiba
13. Ere Tasfata Adounia

**Tinariwen Tour Dates:**

- Fri. Sept. 2 - Sixpenny Handley, UK @ End of the Road Festival  
 Sat. Sept. 3 - Manchester, UK @ Manchester Psych Fest  
 Sun. Sept. 4 - Paisley, UK @ The Spree Festival  
 Fri. Sept. 9 - Chicago, IL @ Metro  
 Sat. Sept. 10 - Minneapolis, MN @ The Cedar Cultural Center  
 Mon. Sept. 12 - Denver, CO @ Bluebird Theater  
 Tue. Sept. 13 - Salt Lake City, UT @ Urban Lounge  
 Thu. Sept. 15 - Seattle, WA @ Neumos  
 Fri. Sept. 16 - Vancouver, BC @ Imperial Theatre  
 Sat. Sept. 17 - Portland, OR @ Mississippi Studios  
 Mon. Sept. 19 - Berkeley, CA @ The UC Theatre  
 Tue. Sept. 20 - Los Angeles, CA @ Fonda Theatre  
 Wed. Sept. 21 - Phoenix, AZ @ Musical Instrument Museum Theater  
 Fri. Sept. 23 - Austin, TX @ Mohawk - Indoor  
 Sat. Sept. 24 - Fort Worth, TX @ Tulips  
 Sun. Sept. 25 - Houston, TX @ The Heights Theater

Tue. Sept. 27 - New Orleans, LA @ House of Blues  
Thu. Sept. 29 - Saxapahaw, NC @ Haw River Ballroom  
Fri. Sept. 30 - Alexandria, VA @ The Birchmere  
Sat. Oct. 1 - Philadelphia, PA @ Underground Arts  
Mon. Oct. 3 - New York, NY @ Webster Hall  
Tue. Oct. 4 - Providence, RI @ Columbus Theatre  
Wed. Oct. 5 - Cambridge, MA @ The Sinclair Music Hall  
Fri. Oct. 7 - Montreal, QC @ Rialto Theatre  
Sat. Oct. 8 - Toronto, ON @ The Danforth Music Hall



(Kel Tinariwen Cover Artwork)

[Artist Site](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Youtube](#)

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