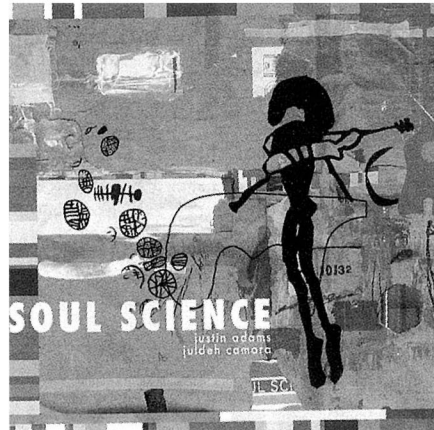


# THE BEAT

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You'll find a revved-up, super-charged, rockified approach to West African desert blues on *Soul Science* (World Village), a collaboration between Gambian-born singer, instrumentalist and Fulani griot **Juldeh Camara** and U.K.-based **Justin Adams**, a much-in-demand producer who is also the guitarist for Robert Plant's band Strange Sensation. Don't come to *Soul Science* expecting anything resembling an amplified version of traditional Gambian music. It sounds more like the music of northern Mali overheated to a high sizzle, a half-invented, half-folk-based crazy genre for global nomads. Among other amazing feats, Adams grafts a chugging Bo Diddley electric guitar riff to Camara's slash-and-burn one-string *riti* fiddle excursions on "Ya Ta Kaaya." Feverish jig, reel or polka "Nayo" recasts Camara's homeland hit song as swirling storm of spirit-voice fiddle, actual falsetto voices, snarling guitar and percussive drive that doesn't know when to quit. Acoustic offering "Njatigi" proffers a change of dynamics, but the mood isn't exactly laid back, thanks to the same restlessness that charges the rest of the disc. Adams and Camara click here as they complement and urge each other forward with almost scary prescience.

**BY BOB TARTE**