



TINARIWEN WINS THE UNCUT MUSIC AWARD 2009

Finally, after much consideration, **Uncut** is proud to announce that **Tinariwen** have won this years coveted **Uncut Music Award**.

Tinariwen's fourth album, [Imidiwan: Companions](#) (World Village 468096), won over some very stiff competition, from **Kings of Leon, Bob Dylan, Wilco, Animal Collective, Dirty Projectors, Grizzly Bear** and **The Low Anthem** to be crowned the most inspirational and rewarding album of 2009.

Now in its second year, the **Uncut Music Award** has already gained a reputation as the most credible award in music. The artists' nationality, age and sales figures are completely irrelevant as a judging panel of industry figures come together to decide on the winner.

Tinariwen were unanimously chosen, by a distinguished judging panel of eleven key industry figures who included musicians Billy Bragg, Rachel Unthank and Robin Pecknold of last year's UMA winners, Fleet Foxes, broadcasters Mark Radcliff, Bob Harris, Danny Kelly and Christian O'Connell and, ex-EMI chief executive and chair of the BPI Tony Wadsworth, Stiff Records founder Dave Robinson and Mark Cooper, BBC Head Of Music Entertainment.

Tinariwen are a band of Tuareg musicians from the Sahara Desert region of northern Mali, whose mix of electric blues and Middle Eastern & African traditional drumming, has created a unique sound of their very own. Formed in 1979, they rose to prominence in the 1980s as the musical voice of a new political and social conscience in the southern Sahara. In the early 2000s, Tinariwen started to gain a following outside Africa, first in the world music community and then on the wider rock scene, through frequent tours and appearances at major festivals in Europe and the USA

Ibrahim Ag Alhabib of Tinariwen, said of winning the Uncut Music Award: *'This makes us really really happy, all of us and I'm glad that this important magazine should recognise our music. It gives us the strength to carry on working and spreading the message about the peace of our desert home, and I'm glad that our music can cross the frontiers and talk to people around the world. Thanks very very much.'*

Uncut's Editor Allan Jones says of Tinariwen - **Imidiwan: Companions**: *'With so much great music to chose from, the judges' task this year was extremely difficult, but in the end, the panel was unanimous in voting for Imidiwan. It's a fantastically exciting record, full of great, powerful music, passionately and brilliantly played. It had everything the judges were looking for in a potential winner.'*

'Artist Billy Bragg says: *'I think this band will be hugely influential. In the next couple of years we'll be hearing young bands lifting the tensions and the rhythms of Tinariwen. You find yourself reaching back to the blues to explain what they do, it's like they've turned the whole bloody thing upside*

down. I really do think they are an Uncut band.'

BBC's Creative Head of Music Entertainment Mark Cooper says: 'I love the fact that this is a world music record that saves world music from the liberals. That's really cool, I think a rock audience can like it, it's not precious or worthy. It's real.'

Artist Rachel Unthank says: 'Tinariwen were the only group that united the panel. Their hypnotic rhythms must have cast a spell over us all as we were all captivated. Beautiful, powerful and brooding music. Hurray!'

Broadcaster Bob Harris says: 'If we're talking about what's the most amazing, creative, forward-looking, political record we're discussing, then this album is very, very special. There's a lot of words here, that don't completely or properly translate into English. There's so much to discover, to know about this record, but you find yourself asking, 'How much do I want to know, or how much do I just want to be entranced by it?'

Stiff Records Founder Dave Robinson says: 'Tinariwen – Imidiwan: Companions Timeless organic and a truly unique album with a great sound.'

The full shortlist in alphabetical order, was:

- Animal Collective – Merriweather Post Pavilion (Domino)**
- Bob Dylan – Together Through Life (Columbia)**
- Dirty Projectors – Bitte Orca (Domino)**
- Grizzly Bear – Veckatimest (Warp)**
- Kings of Leon – Only By The Night (Columbia)**
- The Low Anthem – Oh My God Charlie Darwin (Bella Union)**
- Tinariwen – Imidiwan: Companions (Independiente)**
- Wilco – Wilco (Nonesuch)**

TINARIWEN :: North American Tour 2010

February 15	Chapel Hill, NC	University of North Carolina
February 16	Columbus OH	Wexner Center for the Arts
February 20	Los Angeles	UCLA Royce Hall
February 21	San Francisco, CA	San Francisco Jazz Festival
February 23	Seattle, WA	Triple Door
February 25	Vancouver, Canada	Orpheum
February 27	Chicago, IL	Old Town School of Folk Music
March 5	Montreal, Canada	Le National
March 3	Quebec, Canada	Palais Montcalm



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