P R E S S  R E L E A S E

**MICHAEL KIWANUKA, AMADOU ET MARIAM AND BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA, SOFI TUKKER AND MORE AT POHODA 2019**

**11. – 13. JUL 2019 – AIRPORT TRENČÍN**

This week we added several great names to the list of Pohoda artists for 2019. The following bands will play this summer in Trenčin: the winner of BBC's Sound & the two-time nominee for Mercury Prize, **Michael Kiwanuka**, the star of the contemporary dance scene **Sofi Tukker** (whose debut *Treehouse* is nominated for Grammy of Best Electronic Album of the Year) and the punk rock performances – the Swedish **Viagra Boys** and the Icelandic-British **Dream Wife**. Several pearls are offered to world music fans. An extraordinary combination of R&B vocals, hip-hop beats and North African violin motifs brought by **Sudan Archives**. All the way from Kinshasa, **KOKOKO!**, which, according to Pitchfork, excel a turning chaos into euphoria and the ledgend of Caribbean music **Calypso Rose** will be performing too. The world-music peak will be a concert of two great bands, which have already confirmed their qualities to the festival visitors before, **Amadou & Mariam** will play on Pohoda, as well as the five-time Grammy winners **Blind Boys of Alabama** - this time they will perform together on one stage.

**Michael Kiwanuka**

In 2012, he released his debut album, ***Home Again***, which was ranked fourth in the British chart. In the same year he became the winner of the BBC's Sound of 2012 poll. One year later, he collaborated with Jack White on songs **“You've Got Nothing To Lose”** and **“Waitin 'Round To Die”**. The producer Danger Mouse (Gorillaz, The Black Keys, Adele, U2) collaborated with him on his second album, **Love & Hate**. The album got to the top of the British chart, and coincidentally, it was on the 60th birthday of the official album sales chart. Like his predecessor, ***Love & Hate*** was nominated for the Mercury Prize. The extraordinarily praised album obtained 10 points out of ten from The Telegraph, Chicago Tribune, and Mojo. According to the last mentioned one, the album is full of powerful melodies, lyrics that hit you, sharp riffs, extremely good arrangements, and likeable production. The Guardian and GQ put him in the year-ending selection of the best albums of the year.

**Amadou & Mariam a Blind Boys of Alabama**

Amadou et Mariam played one of the most memorable concerts in the history of our festival 11 years ago. A few talented musicians met at the Institute for Young Blind People in Bamako in the 1970s. The definitive breakthrough in their career was the album Dimanche and Bamako, which was produced by Manu Chao. Amadou et Mariam collaborated in following years with artists such as Damon Albarn, U2, David Gilmour, Coldplay, the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, and Scissor Sisters. Their concert at Pohoda 2019 will also be about exceptional collaboration. Amadou et Miriam will perform with one of the most famous gospel bands of the world, **Blind Boys of Alabama**. The five-time Grammy winners already played at Pohoda in 2007 & 2009. The band was founded in 1939. After a slowdown in the 60s and 80s, they experienced a great comeback with the Deep River album in 1992, and especially after 2000 with Spirit of the Century or Higher Ground, both awarded with Grammy. The most recent autobiographical album, Almost Home (released in August last years), was nominated for a Grammy and was rated 8.6/10 by Paste magazine.

**Sofi Tukker**

Pohoda 2019 will also feature Sofi Tukker whose debut Treehouse is nominated for GRAMMY for the Best Dance/Electronic Album of the Year. This is the second Grammy nomination of the duo; their first single "Drinkee" was last year among the five best dance records of the year. Drinkee and Best Friend have over 100 million streamings on Spotify also thanks to the Apple Watch or iPhone X ads. Will Richards of the DIY concludes his very positive review of their debut with following words: "One thing across the Treehouse album is certain – Sofi Tukker are having more fun than you. It's time to join them. "

**Viagra Boys**

Pohoda will host a 6-member, extremely contagious post-punk band from the Swedish metropolis, Viagra Boys. Although they released their debut *Street Worms* only in September this year, they managed to catch the attention of media like BBC, Pitchfork, Q Magazine, The 405, and The Fader. Pitchfork included their single “Sports” in the Best New Track category, and The Guardian placed the song on the 45th place of the 100 Best Songs of the Year 2018. “Viagra boys are the epitome of the immortality of punk music. I saw them at Reeperbahn, and they were definitely the best band. They go well with Slaves, Sleaford Mods, and The Wildreness. Saxophone and keyboards never sounded so great in punk music and the singerʼs performance is phenomenal. Viagra boys are my personal discovery of 2018,” said Michal Kaščák about the band.

**Calypso Rose**

The legend of the Caribbean music and the queen of the Calypso genre – Calypso Rose, will also play at Pohoda 2019. Her first album was Cooperation (1964), which earned her victory in the Calypso King contest as the first woman in history. In the 1970s the award was even renamed to Calypso Monarch in her honour. At that time she also performed with Bob Marley & the Wailers. Over the course of five decades she has released up to 800 songs and 22 albums. Two years ago she recorded another great album, Far from Home, together with Manu Chao and Ivan Duran, for which she won the WOMEX Artist of the Year and the World Music Album of the Year awards at the "French Grammy" Victoires de la musique.

**Sudan Archives**

Sudan Archives – amazing American singer and violinist – is coming to play Pohoda. Her extraordinary combination of R&B vocals, hip-hop beats and North-American violin motifs and figures has been praised by the likes of Pitchfork, The New York Times, The Guardian or NPR Music and she has already caught the attention of our local media, too. As Musicpress describes it, “Intense songs with a touch of exotic cultures can build a scenery of distant worlds even among skyscrapers, retail chains and business centers. Outstanding!” We couldn’t agree with them more.

**Dream Wife**

Rolling Stone magazine included their performance at the American Lollapaloosa among the 13 best gigs of the festival. Billboard said that they are undoubtedly one of the most exciting rock bands of the past few years, and Paul Glynn called the band “a jaw-dropping live act and one of the most talked-about new bands of 2018”.

**KOKOKO!**

Another name of Pohoda 2019 is an extremely innovative band from the Congolese metropolis – KOKOKO!. According to Pitchfork, they excel at turning chaos into euphoria. A group of musicians from a Kinshasa suburb puts listeners into a trance with their dance music played on "DIY instruments" made from electro (and other type of waste. The band around the French producer Débruit already caught the attention of media such as TIME, Pitchfork, Resident Advisor, BBC6, and Afropunk, and performed at the Roskilde festival, Sonar, Dour, We Love Green or Down The Rabbit Hole. KOKOKO! will also bring the unusually processed everyday life sounds of the third largest African city to Slovakia in July 2019.

Other interesting names of Pohoda 2019 will be announced even between the holidays, the Pohoda fans will be especially happy right after the New Year.

For more information, videos and song samples, visit <https://www.pohodafestival.sk/en/artists>