



World music CD

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## Tartit, Abacabok

4 stars (Crammed Discs)

**Robin Denselow**  
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### Guardian

Tartit come from the deserts of northern Mali, but differ from their better-known compatriots Tinariwen because this is a band dominated by women. Many of the songs are built around the hypnotic chanting of Fadimata Walett Oumar and her four female companions, who sit down to sing and accompany themselves on the hand drums while the male members of the band add guitars, desert lutes, or the gently wailing imzad, a one-stringed violin. The result is a rousing, varied set that includes echoes of desert blues in songs like Achachore, on which the guitar work provided by Afel Bocoum, famous for his work with Ali Farka Touré, through to passages on which the women's voices are driven on by handclaps and jubilant ululation.

Like Tinariwen, they started out in refugee camps, during the Tuareg uprising, and reached a wider audience playing at the Festival in the Desert. This is more great music from the Sahara.

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