

CultureTalk Senegal Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Griots–Singers

Transcript:

A *griot* (*gewel* in Wolof) is a traditional singer, often called a ‘praise-singer.’ *Griots* sing for special occasions. They are especially known for memorizing and passing on oral history. Their songs also sometimes offer commentary on current events and situations.

Griots are considered a caste in Senegalese society. *Griots* usually only marry other *griots* and their artistic traditions are passed from parent to child. One cannot choose to become a *griot*, but rather must be born into a family of *griots*. Traditionally, *griots* are supported by upper-class patrons.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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