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Lecture '**The Green Note**'
by Liesbeth Peroti

Alakondre Symposium
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1. Introduction & Core Objective

Good day, everyone.

The primary objective of this presentation is to examine the evolution of new music within the *Alakondre dron*, the distinctive Alakondre sound, and the integration of what we call 'The Green Note'. We will place a particular focus on the avant-garde music of Suriname and the role of artistic innovation in taking our music to new heights, driven by the contributions of a progressive group of artists and intellectuals.

The central question guiding us today is: What is 'The Green Note'—as an integral component of the Alakondre sound—and how does it manifest in terms of auditory experience and emotional essence?

2. Why Green? From Green Screen to Sound

In preparing for this presentation, two core concepts were central to my research: the etymological meaning of *Alakondre* and the symbolism of the color green. *The Green Note*—a concept introduced by Alida—connects the many nuances of green to a combination of different sounds, rhythms, lyrics, stories, roots, forms, instruments, and melodies. I invite you to experience it as follows:

"Ay, sa yere, yesi sa firi!" (*Eyes will help you hear the sounds, your ears will make you feel.*)

During my reflection, I asked myself: *Why do we use a green screen in the film world instead of yellow, red, or another color?*

It comes down to the power of green. Green is constantly linked to nature and spiritual health. Technically, optical sensors and human eyes are most sensitive to green light. This creates a remarkably sharp, clear image that stands out distinctly from the rest. Just like a green screen, *The Green Note* in Alakondre music provides high clarity and contrast. It allows individual cultural elements to stand out sharply while simultaneously fusing them into a new, unified sound.

3. Analogy with the 'Blue Note' and Surinamese Reality

Just as the *Blue Note* emerged from the history of the blues, we can introduce *The Green Note* as the defining sound of our Alakondre music. Surinamese music has undergone a natural evolution over generations, following the organic merging within our culture. When cultures blend, their music blends automatically—a process so natural it often goes unnamed. For those of us living inside it, it feels completely ordinary. Yet, it is the outsider who hears and feels something extraordinary: they experience *The Green Note*. However, to truly value this heritage, we must examine, study, analyze, and institutionalize what seems ordinary to us.

- Art and Classical Music: Consider the opera '*The Golden Tear*' (*La Larme d'Or*) by composer Majoie Hajari. This major work fits seamlessly within the Alakondre repertoire, embodying *The Green Note*. Roots, rhythms, lyrics, and instruments from India, Africa, China, the Caribbean, and Indigenous traditions come together in logical, seamless harmony.
- Everyday Music: Whether looking at dance music, ambient sound, or party music, *The Green Note* is present. It is simply who we are and how we express ourselves, even without naming it.

4. Conclusion & Vision: Beyond the Metaphor

To fully develop the Alakondre philosophy, we need clear vision and policy from both the government and the private sector. If we want to hear, understand, and perform *The Green Note* at its best, we must learn to speak the languages of our diverse cultures—because language is the soul of a culture. This means introducing primary and secondary school students to our rich linguistic landscape: Indigenous languages like Arawak, as well as Saamaka, Hindi, Javanese, Mandarin, Hakka, and others. Only then will Alakondre cease to be just traditional attire on a national holiday, a mere metaphor, or a *bromki dyari* (flower garden). It will become a living, actionable development driven by *The Green Note*.

Thank you. (Liesbeth Peroti)