

OKRA PLAYGROUND'S NEW SINGLE AND VIDEO

With bones stronger than ours, a horse will carry our sorrows when we are weary.

Electro-folk band Okra Playground from Helsinki released a new single and a video of the song Rautasuu (Steed of Sorrow) on the 7th of April 2017. The video was on a preview on few German websites on the 5th of April: metal music oriented Orkus! magazine and Finnweh blog. The single was simultaneously released in most of Europe by German label Nordic Notes.

Okra Playground was originally formed in 2010 from a wish to bring together excellent people and musician to play around traditional Finnish music with a fresh approach. The band became almost literally a musical playground for its musicians. On this playground the kantele and bowed lyre, both ancient folk instruments, coexist in a new, exciting symbiosis with modern instruments and soundscapes. The music resulting from the quite unusual interesting combination has roots deep in the Finnish soil, but its tallest branches spread out towards the furthest shores of world music. The strong voices of the three female singers, as well as the age-old lyrics, simultaneously take the listener to far-off places and close to home. Okra Playground's fresh music captivates the listener with its hypnotic beat and mystical energy from which also Rautasuu gets its strength.

“This is one of the most exciting bands to come out of Finland in recent times.” (Songlines Magazine UK 122/2016)

Okra Playground's long-awaited debut album Turmio was released in October 2015. The album has ever since been warmly received gaining praises in the new and old mediums – for instance receiving a five star review in *Songlines Magazine*. Turmio also made it to few listings of best albums of 2015 (*Glue at Rosvot* blog and Spanish radio program *O Recanto do Corcovado*). In July 2016 Turmio was re-released by *Nordic Notes* in most of Europe. The debut also took Okra Playground to perform as the only Finnish band on the official showcase program of World Music Expo WOMEX16.

Rautasuu is produced by Sami Kurppa and the video is filmed and directed by Antti Kokkola

Okra Playground is:

Päivi Hirvonen: vocals, violin, bowed lyre
Maija Kauhanen: vocals, kantele
Essi Muikku: vocals, kantele
Sami Kujala: electric bass
Veikko Muikku: accordion, keyboards
Tatu Viitala: percussions

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