



*"This is one of the most exciting bands to come out of Finland in recent times."*  
-Songlines Magazine UK 2016

## OKRA PLAYGROUND

The electro-folk group Okra Playground is mesmerizing on record and stunning on stage. Their music and live show will go straight to your heart. On this musical playground the kantele and bowed lyre, both ancient folk instruments, coexist in a new, exciting symbiosis with modern instruments and soundscapes. The music 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.

Okra Playground's long-awaited **debut album Turmio** was released in October 2015 and was re-released by Nordic Notes in most of Europe in July 2016. The debut also took Okra Playground to perform as the only Finnish band on the Official Showcase program of World Music Expo WOMEX16.

The 23rd of March 2018 Nordic Notes will release Okra Playground's second album **Ääneni yli vesien**.

Okra Playground has previously captivated and charmed audiences at festivals such as Rainforest World Music Festival (Malaysia), Brosella Folk & Jazz Festival (Belgium), Nordsjøfestivalen (Norway), Flow Festival (FI), Haapavesi Folk (FI) and Kaustinen Folk Music Festival (FI).

### Musicians:

Päivi Hirvonen: vocals, violin, bowed lyre

Maija Kauhanen: vocals, kantele

Essi Muikku: vocals, kantele

Veikko Muikku: accordion, synthesizer

Sami Kujala: electric bass

Oskari Lehtonen: percussion

### Contact and booking:

Saura Booking Agency/Johanna Sauramäki

johanna@sauraohjelma.com

+358 50 548 1793



Press photos: <http://okraplayground.fi/press/>

Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/user/okraplayground>

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*"TOP OF THE WORLD" -album*

Songlines Magazine UK 122/2016

*"Music, which is not sugar-sweet but still contains a huge addictive factor"*

Musikreviews.de 4/2017

*"Turmio is a solid album, one that hits the sweet spot of the excursions of other Nordic bands who combine traditional material with electronics. Okra Playground manage to do so consistently, with excitement and commitment."*

RootsWorld 2/2017

*"...Okra Playground have rewritten the rules of how to be at the forefront of contemporary world music while remaining true to their roots. This album alone makes them true ambassadors for Finnish music."*

Finnish Music Quarterly 4/2016

*"Ein Album voller natürlicher Schönheit. / An album full of beauty."*

Musikreviews.de 8/2016

*"Arrangements parfaits, belles compositions, imaginaire fécond : c'est une très belle réussite, assurément. / Perfect arrangements, beautiful compositions, fruits of imagination: certainly a success."*

Le Canard Folk – Belgium 8/2016

*"Okra Playground har verkligen lyckats skapa ett smakfullt helhetsound, en egen färgskala. / OkraPlayground has truly succeeded in creating an elegant, united sound, an own color scale."*

Hufvudstadsbladet 2/2016

Photos by  
1.& 2.: K. Salmi  
3: Tai Chi  
Forest

