

## ITKU- review. [Galgóczy Tamás](#)

<http://ekultura.hu/2022/11/04/zenek-a-nagyvilagbol-okra-playground-itku-vilagzenerol-szujektiven-3511>

english translation:

I was happy to note that the members of the Finnish Okra Playground haven't changed anything in their music, they still play the simultaneously modern and traditional music that characterized their previous records, such as Turmio. I put the world music label on them with a calm heart, which I have to supplement with the Nordic magic sticker. If anyone has already imagined what it would be like to walk through snow-covered pine forests in winter, to look down on people skating on a frozen lake from the hilltop, to watch the fog roll in, or just to enjoy the snowfall at night - then I do not feel the slightest exaggeration that this music is perfectly fits this look.

The voices of the three female singers sound clear in this fairy-tale environment, which the music sometimes leads to trance (Hypnoosi). According to Päivi Hirvonen, "The songs deal with global and social issues such as war, the pandemic and mental health. Most of the songs were written before the great tragedies of the recent past, which speaks of the timelessness of the theme. Change and growth are strongly present on the album..."

The album starts with an energetic note (Itku), dominated by violin and electronics, complemented by a real foot-stomping, captivating chorus, and this flow of energy continues in the next two tracks. In the third, the focus is already on the epic vocals, and then we slow down during the distant/contemplative/sad "Kylmä lintu kyyneleni". "Veri" is an equally slow but much heavier movement - it was perhaps the most cinematic song on the record.

I won't list all the songs, because perhaps it was already clear from what has been written so far that the album Itku has become Okra Playground's best so far. It has retained everything that made me love it so far, only now, if possible, everything is a little better. The sound is great, you can feel the curve of the music, and in addition to the serious things to say, they also encourage you to love and enjoy life. All that remains is to see what they can do live on stage.