



oreka tx nömadak tx

An extraordinary musical journey. Available March 10, 2009



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In the early part of the new millennium, a pair of intrepid musicians who call themselves **Oreka Tx** (from the Basque word for “balance” and the initial letters of their chosen medium) took their **txalaparta**, a locally beloved but otherwise little-known instrument, and traveled to India, Lapland, Mongolia, and the Sahara in search of fresh collaborations, adventures and ideas. The result was an astounding documentary called *Nömadak Tx* (“Nomadic Txalaparta”) which won multiple awards at international film festivals and is coming soon to theaters worldwide. The new recording of the same name (Word Village 468085 -- street date **March 10, 2009**), offers a wealth of newly arranged material inspired by the music in the film. The txalaparta (pronounced roughly “tchala-partá”), nearly extinct as recently as the 1950s, is inextricably tied to Basque culture and currently enjoying a renaissance thanks in part to Oreka Tx. Related to the idiophone family, the txalaparta is made of wooden planks

supported by insulated stands. Two players (*txalapartaris*) strike the instrument with a pair of thick, pestle-like wooden sticks. Acting at once in tandem and independently of one another, but always eerily in synch, the players create complex, lightning-fast, changeable rhythmic and melodic patterns, moving between the tenor range and bass notes so profound that they pummel the listener’s solar plexus. Follow these two musicians as they cross continents creating connections between people and cultures with their unique instrument, the txalaparta.

nömadak tx



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Oreka Tx :: txalaparta duo



Harkaitz Martínez de San Vicente and Igor Otxoa were both born in San Sebastian (aka Donostia in Euskara, the Basque language -- the locals are called “Donostiarras”). They have championed the **txalaparta** since 1997, when they formed **Oreka Tx**. That same year, they also joined a band led by the noted Basque composer, musician, and master of the *trikitixa* (diatonic accordion) Kepa Junkera, a collaboration that garnered them a Latin Grammy®. They have shared the stage and/or recorded with a host of international stars, such as their countrymen Gontzal Mendibil and Oskorri, José Ángel “Hevia” Velasco (Asturias), Carlos Núñez and Susana Seivane (Galicia), María del Mar Bonet (Majorca), Dulce Pontes (Portugal), Taraf de Haïdouks

(Romania), Pat Metheny (USA), Justin Vali (Madagascar), Phil Cunningham and Alasdair Fraser (Scotland), Altan (Ireland), Hendingarna (Sweden), and Berrogüeto (Italy). They released several solo albums and appeared at major festivals in Europe, America and Japan before embarking on the peripatetic road trip captured in the much-honored documentary, *Nömadak Tx*. Upcoming concerts based on the film will be presented in two different ways: “Musical Trip” is a multimedia extravaganza during which Oreka Tx, along with five other live players, performs music composed on their travels interacting with musicians they’ve met on the road; “Nomadic Big Top” is a more intimate affair with Harkaitz and Igor creating sounds and images inside an inflatable tent. All of these activities are dedicated to one objective: that of bringing the txalaparta into the mainstream.

“Harkaitz and Igor began their txalaparta duo in the late 1990s, and rose to some prominence with the popularity of their collaborations with Kepa Junkera, the diatonic accordion whiz from Bilbao. On *Nömadak Tx* (they) visit with nomad musicians in a variety of countries.... The result is an unforgettable visual and musical experience, somewhere between *Baraka*, *Latcho Drom* and *Buena Vista Social Club*.”
- Rootsworld.com

“The txalaparta is a unique musical instrument. Although played by two people, the music emerging from the encounter belongs to neither of them, but to the fact of having met and exchanged dialogue. *Nömadak Tx* shows the desire of two musicians to convert the *Txalaparta* into a meeting point, not only between two beings, but between cultures. Each encounter is unique; a source of surprises and extraordinary experiences.”
- Variety Magazine

DVD screener of the film *Nömadak Tx* available on request.

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