

INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS OF THE RECYCLED ORCHESTRA CATEURA FROM PARAGUAY

One innovative music group which is becoming worldwide popular is the [Recycled Orchestra of Cateura](#). The orchestra plays compositions with instruments made of repurposed garbage of the landfill of Cateura in Asuncion, the capital of Paraguay.

At present the Recycled Orchestra can show a curriculum made out of concerts in 25 countries as Colombia, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Ecuador, Peru, Panama, United States, Canada, Norway, Germany, France, Holland, Belgium, Spain, Switzerland, Palestine, Italy and Japan.

Directed by Favio Chávez, the Orchestra is made up of girls and boys, teenagers and young persons of limited resources coming from the Cateura community and its neighbouring communities. At the moment 40 young people and children are part of the Orchestra and other 200 participate in the musical activities. The needed funds are collected through the concerts realized by the Orchestra around the country and internationally. Furthermore different national institutions like the [Fondo Nacional de la cultura y las artes](#) of Paraguay and international organizations also give their contribution to this innovative initiative.

The instruments of the Orchestra imitate violins, violas, cellos, double basses, guitars, flutes, saxophones, drums and percussion instruments. Among his repertoire, the Orchestra performs classical, folk, Paraguayan, Latin American, symphonic metal music.

In the workshop of the Cateura Orchestra the Director together with the musicians and a handy man expert in recycling materials gathered from the landfill, build the musical string and the percussion instruments. The recycled wind instrument are made in the workshop of a craftsman that offered his collaboration in experimenting the construction of instruments with recycled material, until arriving at assembling saxophones soprano, alto, tenor, drums, flutes and trumpets.

Upon request of the [Musical Instruments Museum of Phoenix](#) (Arizona, USA) part of the instruments recycled by the Orchestra of Cateura are showed in a permanent exhibition.

The story of the Orchestra started in 2006 when Favio Chávez arrived in Cateura as education responsible for an environmental project and being a music teacher he started his music classes for



the sons of the workers in the waste processing plant of the landfill. The idea of building musical instruments with materials discarded as garbage came out from the poverty situation of families and from the willing to create an orchestra that would be a cultural and social project for the community. With the support of a skilled carpenter able to recycle materials from the landfill and other local artisans Favio Chávez attained the purpose of creating the instruments to make music and gave life to the Recycled Orchestra of Cateura.

In 2010 this innovative Orchestra gained the attention of the producers Alejandra Amarilla from Paraguay and Juana Peña Aranda from Colombia, who made a short documentary, releasing a clip on YouTube. In 2012 was produced the documentary [Landfill Harmonic \(La armonía del vertedero\)](#) directed by the American Graham Townsley and disseminated through the main social networks. Important personalities from the world music such as Madonna, the violinist Jason Yang, the musicians Megadeth of thrash metal band, the British actress Emma Watson and the Spanish singer David Bisbal shared their admiration for the creative Orchestra from Paraguay in the social networks.

Thanks to these initiatives in 2012 the extraordinary Recycled Orchestra of Cateura began to receive international donations and requests for concerts in different countries, creating the basis for the future development. As highlighted by the maestro Favio Chávez, the Orchestra aims to continue growing, to achieve a high artistic level, as for the musical repertoire and the musical ability in several genres.

Recycled instruments are part of the process, they are not the purpose and in perspective children and young beginners will continue using recycled instruments, while advanced students will be using traditional instruments. In this way, besides being proud of pertaining to a legendary Orchestra, young musicians will have the opportunity to build up their own professional career.

The Maestro Favio Chávez was recently honoured by the Chamber of Deputies of Paraguay with the National Order of Municipal Merits (*Orden Nacional al Mérito Comunerós*), for the social work he develops with the Orchestra of Cateura.

To know more

[Osquesta Recicladós Cateura website](#)

[Orquesta Recicladós de Cateura in Facebook](#)

[Landfillharmonicmovie.com](#)

[Video in Youtube](#)

[Musical Instrument Museum](#)

[Article in abc.com](#)

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