

THE VEGETABLE ORCHESTRA

FROM AUSTRIA FASCINATING THE WORLD

Founded in 1998 in Vienna (Austria) the extraordinary [Vegetable Orchestra](#) is an exclusive ensemble in the world of music which is committed to the exploration of the acoustic qualities of vegetables.

The *Vegetable Orchestra* is a group of people with different artistic backgrounds: musicians, visual artists, architects, designers, media artists, writers and sound poets. Over the years, the Orchestra has performed more than 300 shows around the globe using instruments exclusively made from vegetables and playing the most diverse music styles: classical, contemporary music, beat-oriented house tracks, experimental electronic, free jazz, among others.

All the instruments used are made from vegetables: from fresh as well as dried plant material such as carrot, leek, celery root, artichoke, dried pumpkin and onion skin. All these components are used for building organic instruments and sound generators which usually only last for one concert or one day in the studio. In addition to the vegetables, various utensils like record players or power drills are used to create unusual noises and to add unexpected texture to the music.

Over the years, the Orchestra has produced four CD, which are presented on the website, allowing visitors to listen and appreciate the different compilation of tracks: [Gemise](#) the first CD recorded in 1999; [Automate](#), a compilation influenced by the most diverse contemporary electronic music styles, and [Onionoise](#). The fourth CD [Green Album](#) has been released after a successful [Krautfunding campaign](#).

In a continuous exploration on the sound potential of vegetables to create a completely new music, the *Vegetable Orchestra* has invented more than 150 instruments over the years. Unlike traditional instruments, vegetable instruments quickly go bad and the orchestra has to create new ones each time it plays. It takes at least two hours and up to 50kg of vegetables to create the orchestra's instruments for a concert.

The concerts made in different countries and contexts are an occasion for the musicians to learn how food



differs around the world and coming up with new instruments. Some vegetables are ready-made items from the market: crunching dried onion skin in your fist sounds like a rainstorm, thumping a pumpkin with your palm resembles a bass drum and rubbing two leeks together as a bow and body creates a squeaky string section. Others are cut-and-carved creations resembling traditional instruments: parsnips, courgettes and peppers make good wind and brass instruments, while hollowed-out gourds are percussive. The most complex ones are transformer-like hybrids that combine two or more vegetables.

The [review presented in the Vegetable Orchestra website](#) illustrates the appreciation expressed by exponents of culture and media around the world for the musical performances of this extraordinary orchestra. In 2019 the [BBC dedicated an article to the Vienna's unpredictable Vegetable Orchestra](#).

The concerts by the Vegetable Orchestra have inspired other ensembles to sprout up around the world, including the London Vegetable Orchestra and Long Island Vegetable Orchestra.

The musicians of the Vegetable Orchestra also made a book for people interested in building their own vegetable instruments. The publication [with building instructions for 18 vegetable instruments](#) is promoted on the Orchestra's website.

To know more

[Vegetable Orchestra website](#)

[Vegetable Orchestra in Facebook](#)

[Vegetable Orchestra compilations](#)

[Book in vegetableorchestra.bandcamp.com](#)

[Article in bbc.com](#)

[Video in bbc.com](#)

[Article in good.net](#)

[Article in citylab.com](#)

[Article in laughingsquid.com](#)

[London Vegetable Orchestra](#)

[Long Island Vegetable Orchestra](#)

[Long Island Vegetable Orchestra in Facebook](#)

[Beijing vegetable orchestra in onegreenplanet.org](#)

