

The Film Collaborative
"LANDFILLHARMONIC"
AUGUST 20, 2015
TRANSCRIBED BY: WORD OF MOUTH (LD)

[SHOW OPENING TITLES]

[01:03:06]

CHYRON : HOME TO NEARLY 2 MILLION INHABITANTS PARAGUAY'S
CAPITAL OF ASUNCIÓN PRODUCES ABOUT 1,500 TONS OF GARBAGE EVERY
DAY. NEARLY ALL OF IT ENDS UP IN THE MUNICIPAL LANDFILL KNOWN AS
CATEURA.

[01:03:23]

CHYRON : CATEURA IS LOCATED ABOUT 7 MILES SOUTH OF ASUNCIÓN
IN THE FLOODPLAIN OF THE PARAGUAY RIVER. IT SUPPORTS THE
LIVELIHOODS OF ROUGHLY 2,500 FAMILIES.

[01:03:36]

CHYRON : THE AREA IS CONSIDERED UNINHABITABLE BECAUSE OF
HIGH FLOOD RISK.

[01:04:25]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Hello. Kids! Come here. Learning to play
music isn't just holding the instrument and playing. You have to
practice exercises and learn to read music. I arrive in Cateura

in 2006 to work as an environmental technician. My job was to work with families that collect recyclable materials from the landfill and sell them as their source of income.

[01:04:58]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : They are known gancheros. My job was to educate them about better ways to collect and sort garbage. As I began to better understand the situations of families in Cateura, I realized that the future of most kids is to work with garbage just like their parents.

[01:05:32]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Here in Paraguay the social conditions often limit the ability to dream. If you're born in the wrong place you don't have the right to dream. Da-da-da-da, da-da-da-da count with me. Uno, dos, tres, cuatro. When I was young music was the first thing that gave me a sense of purpose.

[01:06:03]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Thus I decided to teach music to the children of the gancheros. Follow my count. Your mind is wandering. When I started to offer music classes called in Cateura the news that I was offering free music classes spread very quickly. And many kids showed up. More kids than instruments. We did have a few

instruments that people had donated. But we didn't have enough instruments for all of the kids that wanted to learn.

[01:06:41]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : And I said to myself, "We have to do something to get more instruments." However a community like Cateura is not a safe place to have a violin. In fact, a violin is worth more than a house.

[01:07:05]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : I met Colá when he was working in the landfill as a ganchero. Colá saw that I was teaching music and one day he approached me. He told me that he had experience working in carpentry.

COLÁ GOMEZ : Favio asked me, "Do you think we can make instruments from garbage?" So I thought about the idea for a while. And then Favio brought me a real violin to see if I could make something similar.

[01:07:34]

COLÁ GOMEZ : I took all the measurements and went to look for a metal can. And I told him, "That's what I'm going to use

to make a violin." It was a continuous process of trial and error.

[01:08:06]

COLÁ GOMEZ : I asked myself if it was something that could be used to play music or if it would be completely useless.

[01:08:56]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : When I played the first violin it was a moment of enlightenment because we realized that it could function as a real musical instrument. Then we figured we could make other types of instruments.

COLÁ GOMEZ : I could this to make a drum.

[01:09:23]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : This drum has an X-ray for a drumhead.

[01:09:31]

COLÁ GOMEZ : I can this to make a cello.

MALE : This weird looking cello is made from an oilcan as well as a wooden spoon used for cooking. The tuning pegs are

made from wooden spoons, a water spigot, and a size 12 heel from a woman's shoe.

[01:09:59]

COLÁ GOMEZ : Two nice piece of wood from a palette that I can use for a cello, bass, or violin. NO one believed that we could make musical instruments from garbage.

[01:10:26]

COLÁ GOMEZ : But in the end we made them all.

CHYRON : NOVEMBER, 2011.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Play using the top end of the bow. Today is the first day you're playing this son. You're going to make mistakes.

[01:10:59]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : But don't let that upset, alright? You have to keep trying until you get it. Alright, let's start again.

ADA RIOS : In the beginning I felt really frustrated because nothing I played sounded as good as I wanted it to.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Okay, hold on a second. No. In a good orchestra, all of the violins sound the same.

[01:11:28]

That means you have to play the same notes and have the same tuning, and you have to use the same bow stroke technique. Your technique is what makes the instruments sound different. That's why your technique is so important. Let's try it again. Uno, dos, tres-- [SPEAKS SPANISH]

[01:12:08]

ADA RIOS : One day my grandmother saw a flyer for guitar and violin lessons. And without asking she signed me up for classes.

MIRIAN CARDOZO : I used to dream of being a singer. I love music, especially rock music. I'm a fan of the Beatles and similar groups. I used to think, "How great would it be to learn to play music." Before, if you wanted to study music you had to pay for classes in Asunción. But then I found this opportunity for music lessons with recycled instruments. I never imagined it would be free, especially nowadays.

[01:12:48]

ADA RIOS : I live with my dad, with my mom, with my sister,
and with our pets.

JORGE RIOS : You have to cut all of the knots.

JORGE RIOS : I worked as a gancho in the landfill for two
years from the age of 16 to 18.

[01:13:16]

In the landfill, I was fortunate to find lots of different
cassette tapes. One of the best tapes I found was an album by
Phil Collins. His music was a huge part of my life back then.
After that I started to learn about other music that I didn't
even know existed. Those groups included Led Zeppelin and Black
Sabbath.

[01:13:40]

JORGE RIOS : This is one of the most important things that
I've taught my daughters. Musicians from all over the world. I
have always been interested in the three great composers.
Mozart, Sebastian Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven, Jimi Hendrix, Sex
Pistols. Who have never heard of them? All my life I tried to be
part of a band or have an instrument to play.

[01:14:13]

But I never had the opportunity.

ADA RIOS : Bye, Mom. My closest friends are the violinists, which are Maria, Natalia, and Tania.

[01:14:41]

MARIA RIOS : My most precious possession is my violin. I treat it like a jewel. I have other beautiful things like bracelets, rings, and necklaces. But I'm starting to pay less attention to those things. Now I'm focusing more on my violin.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Hey, guys. How are you? Go on inside. Hey, how are you, Jorge?

JORGE : Spectacular.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Can I have your attention for a moment? Someone heard about our orchestra and has invited us to play at an event.

[01:15:14]

That means we have only a few days until our first performance. The piece that we will be playing is "Ode To Joy" because it's the piece of music they want to hear that night. And the main part of the song will be played by the first violins.

[01:15:40]

Try it again.

[01:16:09]

Much better. Everyone in the group is unique. Some of us learn the music faster than others. Some of you are very focused but others have trouble paying attention. Those are the dynamics of a group, okay? So we have to help those who have trouble focusing and learning. Understand? You must stay focused. One ice cream cone each, just one.

[01:16:40]

Hold on to that. There you go.

[01:16:44]

MARIA & ADA : [SINGING] Why did you fool me? The melancholy is going to kill me. And now without you my life is over.

[01:17:01]

ALL : [SINGING "FRERE JACQUES" SONG IN SPANISH]

[01:18:10]

TANIA : All done? Nice work, Maria.

MARIA RIOS : Do you like how it looks?

TANIA : No.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Who put the strings on this violin? The strings are on backwards.

[01:18:43]

Our instrument are out of tune. We need to tune them again. Are you sure you have the correct piece of sheet music? Then what's wrong? One, two, three, and-- one more time, last time through.

ANNOUNCER : Let's give a round of applause for director Favio Chávez and the Recycled orchestra from Cateura. For your enjoyment.

[ORCHESTRA PLAYS]

[01:20:13]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Just to be on stage at this point is an accomplishment for us. How well we play is secondary. The challenge we were faced with is how to convert our small orchestra of recycled instruments into an actual symphonic orchestra. We started to think that we could play music for real.

[01:20:50]

MIRIAN CARDOZO : About 25 years ago, this creek was clean with white sand. We used to call it Arroyo Moroti in the Guaraní language. That means "white creek." We used to wash clothes here. And kids would bathe in the water. It's a shame. When my family moved here there was just this creek. There were no gardens. There was nothing. We could play anything because when it rained everything would flood.

[01:21:23]

We have to plant along the creek to prevent erosion of the soil. If you don't build up the riverbank your house could flood. When it rains hard the water can reach this high. But thank God it doesn't flood here anymore.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : I'm convinced that the environment and the deterioration of our surroundings determines our quality of life.

[01:21:58]

And I always wanted to do something about that. I thought I had the answer to the problem of dealing with garbage. But reality taught me otherwise. The recycling project that brought me to Cateura in the first place failed. It failed because you have to change the entire system beginning at the source.

[01:22:30]

But my failure as if by magic cause me to persist with the idea of the orchestra.

[01:23:09]

[APPLAUSE]

CHYRON : ONE YEAR LATER.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : One, two, three, and-- okay, stop, no, no. Okay. Make the notes rounder.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : As a group we have our first international presentation in 10 days.

[01:23:42]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : One, two, three, and--

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : We have received an invitation to perform at the Rio +20 World Summit, an international conference related to environmental policy. We still have a lot of work to do, not just musical improvement but also emotional preparation.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : I don't want to call anyone out personally. But preparing for an important even is not only about learning the music. You also need to prepare yourself personally.

[01:24:13]

We must develop proactive attitudes. Proactive attitudes are the ones that help accomplish our goals. So we need to focus on the action that help us achieve positive results. You all are not like the kids on the street, or like any other kid. Preparing for this trip is not just about the music. It's much more than that. You got it? Help each other out. We're a team. Our strength is in our unity. One, two, three, and-- play louder.

[01:24:48]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : The violinists have the hardest job out of the entire group. They need to have a different attitude than the others in the group. When they doubt their abilities, the instrument doesn't sound good. They may not feel confident about the music they're playing, but they still need to feel confident about themselves.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Why aren't you playing?

TANIA VERA HERTZ : I am playing.

[01:25:16]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : No, you're not. You're not playing. Let's play through it one more time. One, two, three, and-- don't be scared to play. Play without fear. Don't be afraid to play.

[01:25:46]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Tania doesn't really have a father. He is absent from her home. He abandoned the family. So she's living with her mother now. Her mom works all day, so Tania has to take care of her younger siblings. She's like the second mother of the family.

[01:26:22]

EUGENIO VERA : We had a small family problem, and things weren't so good. Now I'm living in my aunt's house, a little distant, but that's all. I don't see anything wrong with that.

IDALINA HERTZ : As a mother, I can tell you that supporting all of my kids is very difficult. I'm not always able to be there for them.

[01:26:52]

But at least I try to give them advice and how to take care of themselves.

ADA RIOS : I used to see Tania walk by my house, but I didn't know who she was.

TANIA VERA HERTZ : Are you going to take your instrument?

ADA RIOS : No, it's at school.

TANIA VERA HERTZ : Oh, you have it there.

MIRIAN CARDOZO : You look so pretty.

[01:27:27]

ADA RIOS : I met Tania the day I started violin classes. I was impressed by how she played. She inspired me to play the violin. I initially wanted to play the guitar. But when I saw Tania play the violin I also wanted to play it.

ADA RIOS : We could try to practice Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday.

ADA RIOS : Tania is emotionally closed off.

[01:27:58]

ADA RIOS : We can practice at Maria's house.

ADA RIOS : When we ask her about her life she won't tell us anything.

TANIA VERA HERTZ : My best friend is Maria because she's a good person. And she is able to keep secrets.

[01:28:25]

MARIA RIOS : If Tania is around a lot of new people she can be very shy. But once she gets to know you she will be your

friend. She's your ally. She's always looking out for you. She's a great friend.

[01:29:02]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : How many girls do we have? Four? No. There are six. Remember, these shirts are for the concert. What do you think of this color? Opinions? Alright. We're done here. Thank you. Let's go.

[01:29:34]

ADA RIOS : This is the first time that I will fly in an airplane. It will be my first time in a hotel. And it will also be my first time seeing the ocean. But the most exciting part is to see a new country and be with my friends.

ADA RIOS : I think all of the clothes I own will fit in here.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Let me know if you like these. Speak now or forever hold your peace. You can't give them to me each for 450 guarani? No discount at all?

[01:30:04]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : 480 each, right?

MALE : Yes.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Alright, let's go. Thank you, sir. See you later.

ANA RIOS : One time Maria was practicing violin and left her bow in the bed. And when I went to bed I broke it.

ANA ORTIZ : What is the gesture that Estéban always uses? Something like this-- Favio understands your unique language and gestures, right?

[01:30:35]

ESTEBAN IRAZABAL : I think he's almost ready to publish a new dictionary. Spanish - Estéban, Estéban-Spanish.

ADA RIOS : Favio will ask him, "Is your drum kit ready yet?" He responds, "Yes, I just need to (Gesture)" [LAUGHTER] What he is trying to say is "I need to turn my kick drum around."

[LAUGHTER]

ESTEBAN IRAZABAL : I have a hearing problem. When I was eight years old I had the mumps.

[01:31:01]

It's a disease that affected my throat here as well as my inner ear.

ANA ORTIZ : He has always been very hyperactive. He would play rhythms on anything he could find.

ESTEBAN IRAZABAL : It's something that makes me feel free. It's my personality. Playing the drums liberates me.

[ROCK MUSIC PLAYING]

[01:31:33]

ANA ORTIZ : We took him to a doctor, and he said he could no longer play drums. He became very depressed by this diagnosis. Very depressed. He didn't want to do anything.

ESTEBAN IRAZABAL : It was like they had stabbed me with a sword right in the heart. They told me that I needed to use a hearing aid. But I decided to keep playing the drums. I don't want my problem to hold me back.

[01:32:03]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : This is our last rehearsal before our trip to Brazil. We're making sure all the instruments are working correctly. There is still a lot of work to do. Before a big event, I always have trouble sleeping. Or I have nightmares that I forget to do something or that there's some kind of major problem. I never have enough time to anticipate all of the challenges that will arise. I need to double-check all of the children's documents to make sure they are all good to travel

[01:32:32]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : All of the violins - play an "A." Alright. Let's try it this time but with effort. [ORCHESTRA PLAYS]

[01:32:58]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : First of all you all are fighting with the notes. Each note should sound crisp. But your notes sound muddy. You're tripping over the notes. We have been invited to perform, and there are high expectations of us. I know we're not big stars like other groups. But we still have to give it our best shot.

[01:33:35]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : This screw is totally stripped. To be a musician in the Recycled Orchestra, you not only have to learn to play music with these particular instruments, but you also need to solve the problems that the instruments always have.

[01:34:00]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Thus each member of the orchestra is both a musician and a luthier.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : I'm going to remove the dents from this instrument. It needs to be more round as close to a circle as possible. Give it a try with the car jack. Give it two more turns. Alright, that's good.

[01:34:35]

TANIA VERA HERTZ : No. I don't want any right now.

TANIA VERA HERTZ : Without music my life would be meaningless.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Here in Paraguay there is a very important document that children need in order to travel. Their parents

must go to a court to sign a document that authorizes their children to travel to other countries.

[01:35:08]

I'm on the way to find Tania's father because he needs to sign the authorization for Tania to travel to Brazil. Tania's father told me that if I didn't look for him then he would not guarantee that he would show up to sign the papers. Today is the day that the kids' parents have to sign the paperwork because the judge has to meet with us today at this very moment.

[01:35:37]

If Tania's father doesn't show up then Tania won't be able to travel to Brazil.

TANIA VERA HERTZ : I don't remember the last time I saw my dad.

IDALINA HERTZ : Things were very rough with Tania's father. He was very violent with us. He drinks a lot. And I couldn't take it anymore.

FEMALE : That must be very difficult, Tania.

[01:36:09]

IDALINA HERTZ : From what I've heard, it's hard for children who grow up with that situation to turn out okay in the end.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Is he in the landfill already?

MALE : I don't know. You'll have to go check. Go ask his boss.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : I'm just going to stand by the entrance of the landfill. I'll just be here for a second and then I'll leave for town.

[01:36:33]

We'll be right there. They told me I had permission to enter the landfill. [ON PHONE] I can't find Eugenio. I'll make a call over the radio. Find out if he's over there in the landfill.

[01:37:07]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Hi.

EUGENIO VERA : I waiting for you.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : When?

EUGENIO VERA : Yesterday.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : No. I told you to be here today.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Come over here, Eugenio.

MALE : Sir, your identification please and the
identification of the children.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : It's more difficult working with the parents
than it is with the kids in Cateura.

[01:37:39]

MALE : Your address, sir?

EUGENIO VERA : [SPEAKS SPANISH]

MALE : Sonia Jazmin? Sonia?

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Tania, Tania.

MALE : Tania, right.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Do you have your ID card?

MALE : Do to the fourth window.

[01:37:57]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : To the fourth window.

[01:38:25]

ESTEBAN IRAZABAL : What's up, Mom?

ANA ORTIZ : Do you have everything ready?

ADA RIOS : What else are you taking with you?

MARIA RIOS : I've put too many clothes in here. Nothing else will fit.

[01:38:58]

JORGE RIOS : When the plane takes off it's going to shake a lot. But that's normal. And it's only for a moment.

ADA RIOS : Would you like to go, Dad?

JORGE RIOS : Yeah, I'd like to go see the Brazilian women.

ADA RIOS : Bye, Dad.

[01:39:43]

ESTEBAN IRAZABAL : Finally.

[01:40:15]

ADA RIOS : Nati, where is your side locker?

NATALIA : It's number 5.

ADA RIOS : If you need soap, the woman at the front desk said that they have some.

TANIA VERA HERTZ : Wow. Check this out. Come over here and sit with me in the window.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Five more minutes.

ESTEBAN IRAZABAL : The anxiety I feel is overwhelming.

[01:40:43]

ADA RIOS : I have goose bumps. I'm excited and nervous.

CHYRON : RIO +20 CONCERT VENUE

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Look, don't be nervous. There are going to be a lot of people here. Be sure to smile. The only moments when you need to be serious are when we finish a song and we're about to begin the next one.

[01:41:21]

Because we don't know what's going to happen. But this is a great opportunity to show off the orchestra and represent Paraguay. How does that sound? Everyone excited? [APPLAUSE]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : We play all types of music. For example, we play classical music that you've probably heard before. But I'm sure you've never heard Mozart played with garbage.

[ORCHESTRA PLAYS, APPLAUSE]

[01:43:19]

ALL : [SINGING] We're going to the beach! We're going to the beach!

[01:44:48]

JORGE RIOS : What was your first impression when you saw the ocean? Tell me about it.

ADA RIOS : I was like, wow, with my mouth open.

JORGE RIOS : Most people don't get to leave here. It isn't possible for them to travel. The experiences you are having now are wonderful. It's hard for you all to understand the magnitude of your experience. But in the future, this will be an unforgettable experience for you.

[01:45:18]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : To those who traveled, I wanted to tell you that the audience enjoyed the concert. You all played very well. That's the result of working hard. When we make sacrifices and are responsible, we will receive recognition from the public.

CHYRON : AFTER THEIR TRIP TO BRAZIL IN 2012 A SHORT VIDEO ABOUT THE RECYCLED ORCHESTRA'S STORY WAS POSTED ON THE Internet.

[INTERNET CLIP]

[01:45:45]

ADA RIOS : My name is Ada Maribel Rios Bogado. I am 13 years old and I play the violin.

MALE : This cello is made from an oil drum. And it sounds like this. [PLAYS CELLO]

[01:46:14]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : When the video about the story of our orchestra was posted on the Internet, lots of people around the world became interested in what we were doing.

BOB SIMON : We decided to take you to Cateura tonight not because of the poverty or the filth but because of the incredible imagination and ingenuity of the people who live there.

[APPLAUSE]

MICHAEL STRAHAN : Look at this. That's a fork, people.

[01:46:42]

MALE NEWS ANCHOR : Get this, a group of kids in Paraguay actually made all of the instruments out of things that they found in the trash.

FEMALE NEWS ANCHOR : 'Cause although they play classical music they do it on instruments they've made completely out of garbage.

FEMALE NEWS ANCHOR : The video is having a huge impact in the world of social media.

[OVERLAPPING INTERNATIONAL NEWS ANCHORS REPORTING ON THE RECYCLED ORCHESTRA]

[01:47:09]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : On one hand, all of this attention was a good thing, but on the other it was a huge challenge. Because we were thrown into unknown situations at a frightening speed.

JORGE RIOS : You like this speaker?

ADA RIOS : My dad really likes rock and heavy metal. We grew up listening to that type of music.

MALE : Here we go. [PLAYS GUITAR]

ADA RIOS : I have always been a fan of Megadeth. They're like Gods to me. I had the idea to take a picture and send it to them to let them know that they have fans in our orchestra.

[01:48:08]

With some other members of the orchestra who also like Megadeth we painted their band name in the middle of a Paraguay flag. We took a picture of us holding the flag and our recycled instruments. I posted it on my Facebook page and shared it on David Ellefson's page. He responded to us, and we began emailing back and forth.

[01:48:51]

DAVID ELLEFSON : When I heard the story about the kids in Cateura what really hit me was the human spirit is the same and connected all around the world. Music is a language that transcends all languages. When people are attracted to something because it's very organic and it really touches their heart or it speaks to their spirits. And it's certainly how I feel about going down to Paraguay is something that for me it speaks to my heart, and it feels like it's a calling.

[01:49:28]

DAVID ELLEFSON : So this is it. All right. Meeting Ada, she's like my hero, you know, I'm a fan. It's like I'm actually kinda nervous traveling down here to meet her. This is a cool moment.

MALE : Can you come here? Where is Ada?

[01:49:59]

DAVID ELLEFSON : [LAUGHS] Here she is! Ah! Ada! [LAUGHS] How are you? How are you? How are you? [LAUGHS]

ADA RIOS : I'm so excited.

JORGE RIOS : Lots of emotion.

DAVID ELLEFSON : Oh, I know, me too. Me too.

ADA RIOS : I can't believe it.

JORGE RIOS : [STAMMERS] She can't believe it. She can't believe this.

[01:50:30]

DAVID ELLEFSON : I know. I can't believe I'm here either.
This is really wonderful. She-- she is my-- she is my favorite
new rock star.

[ADA PLAYING VIOLIN]

MALE : David, this is Favio.

DAVID ELLEFSON : Hey, Favio. Hola! How are you? How are you?

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Hello, hello, hello, hello. Glad to meet you.

[01:50:58]

DAVID ELLEFSON : Thank you, nice to meet you too. Yes,
thank--

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Welcome to-- welcome to our school.

DAVID ELLEFSON : Wow. So that's what this is is a school?

[APPLAUSE] How are you?

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Hey everyone. Do you recognize this guy?

DAVID ELLEFSON : Hey! How are you? Hola! [LAUGHS] I am a big fan. So--

MALE : He's a big fan of the orchestra.

[01:51:29]

DAVID ELLEFSON : Yeah, si. [APPLAUSE] I know that from Facebook. I've seen it. Yeah, that's the one.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : When you started communicating with the kids via Facebook, the first thing Ada said was, "He knows that we exist!"

DAVID ELLEFSON : I just want you to know you've inspired me for new music moving forward. So please continue and never stop what you're doing. So thank you. [APPLAUSE]

[01:52:06]

DAVID ELLEFSON : Stylistically, two totally different genres, different instruments but the heart is the same. For me I would love this to be something that our band can continue in some way, shape, or form.

[01:52:45]

NATIVIDAD ROMERO : Colá is such a good person. That's why I fell in love with him. I fell in love because he's my type of man.

[01:53:16]

We work together and help each other out. [SPEAKS SPANISH] I could never have imagined that things would turn out as good as they have. We now have everything we need. We've been able to add on to our house. Even though it's not the prettiest house, for me it's beautiful.

[01:53:54]

I used to worry all the time because it gets very hot in the landfill. Colá almost died working there. He was in the hospital for one month and 22 days. He got sick from working in the landfill.

[01:54:21]

But now he doesn't work in the landfill as a gancharo anymore. He only goes there to bring home food for the pigs. Sometimes he brings home old cans and metal containers to make his instruments.

COLÁ GOMEZ : I like my work better now because I'm making something beautiful for someone that loves to play music.

[01:54:56]

It's an instrument they can play. It's something they will appreciate and love because what we're making is a thing of beauty.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : I'd like for us to take a look at some new music that our friend who just visited asked us to practice. I listened to this song on You Tube. It's a song by Megadeth. Have you ever heard this song played with an actual orchestra? \

ALL : No.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : It's likely that they will play this with an orchestra. With our orchestra in Denver in the United States on August 2.

[01:55:29]

ADA RIOS : It's very exciting to know I'm going to play with Megadeth. It's an unexpected surprise. It makes me very happy.

To play with a rock band and be recognized internationally and to play in the United States. That's my dream.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Opportunities like this one are like a train that passes only once in life. You have to take the chance even though you never feel totally prepared.

CHYRON : DENVER, COLORADO

[01:56:11]

JIM CORROCCIO : This is where you're gonna be playing tonight. [MALE SPEAKS SPANISH] It's a lot different when all the people get in here. The energy level is gonna be way up. They're gonna be excited and nervous. When Megadeth gets here you guys are gonna rehearse on stage with them.

MALE : You're gonna go right in this door back here.

DAVID ELLEFSON : Okay.

MALE : So she's gonna mark the floor for everybody.

MALE : You guys, I want you to be really aware in that back row. You're really close to the edge of the deck. You gotta be careful.

[01:56:46]

JIM CORROCCIO : All right, you guys the band's gonna come on stage now. So get into your spots. We have Ellefson. Where's Mr. Mustaine.

DAVE MUSTAINE : Hi. What's your name, honey?

TANIA VERA HERTZ : Tania.

DAVE MUSTAINE : Tania. Okay.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Thank you. Thank you very much.

DAVE MUSTAINE : Very, very honored to meet you.

DAVID ELLEFSON : It's quick, quick, one, two, three, ga-ga-ga-ga, right?

MALE : Is he hearing--

DAVID ELLEFSON : He's gonna have that. He's gonna--

[STAMMERS] we're getting him some ear buds right now.

MALE : Okay, yeah. So he'll know that it's coming.

DAVID ELLEFSON : No, it's no good. No, no, that's a good pedal.

MALE : My pedal broke during the trip.

MALE : During the trip, it's broken.

[01:57:18]

MALE : No, he can-- he can-- tell him he can have mine. I'm gonna give-- that's-- that's my gift to him. He can have it. Okay?

MALE : He said you can have his pedal. It's a gift to you.

MALE : Yeah, you keep it, all right?

MALE : Ah! Thank you, thank you, thank you very much.

MALE : My pleasure, my pleasure. Yeah, thanks for playing with us tonight. It's gonna be great. Yeah, no problem.

MALE : Thank you.

DAVE MUSTAINE : Do you know how loud it's gonna be?

MALE : How is the volume for you?

[01:57:48]

DAVID ELLEFSON : One, two, three, ba-ba-ba ba-da-ba, right, right, that's it.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : One, two-- [ORCHESTRA PLAYING] don't rush it. Don't rush it.

MALE : The drummer's nailing it.

DAVID ELLEFSON : Dude, the drummer's totally throwing down, man. Wood chips flying.

[01:58:12]

MALE : Yeah, just saying watch yourself.

[01:58:54]

DAVID ELLEFSON : From South America to North America, with the gift of music let your holy spirit shine through tonight on that stage. Goose bumps.

MALE : All right, let's go do a show. [APPLAUSE] Here we go.

[01:59:26]

FEMALE : We're walking right now. [APPLAUSE]

DAVE MUSTAINE : Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the Landfillharmonic Orchestra.

[02:00:00]

DAVE MUSTAINE : Come on! [BAND & ORCHESTRA PLAYS]

[02:01:19]

DAVE MUSTAINE : Ladies and gentlemen, let's hear it for them, Landfillharmonic Orchestra from Paraguay. [APPLAUSE] God bless you guys. Thank you for coming up here. We're so proud of you.

FEMALE : The Recycled Orchestra, a group from Paraguay made a stop in Saskatchewan this week to spread entertainment and inspiration. [APPLAUSE]

[02:01:52]

FEMALE : Three shows this weekend, first one in Winkler today, two in Winnipeg tomorrow. And then they're continuing across Canada.

MALE : Now they're taking their spectacle to Amsterdam.
[APPLAUSE]

MALE : Queen Sophia of Spain attended a concert this morning in Madrid's National Theater. The concert was performed by the Recycled Orchestra of Cateura, Paraguay.

[02:02:21]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : So what is it that makes the difference and allows these kids to be on the stage? It's opportunity.
[APPLAUSE]

FEMALE : Please welcome the Recycled Orchestra of Cateura!

[02:02:48]

ADA RIOS : I always feel like I'm living in a dream. But that eventually I'll wake up.

MALE : Who would have thought that the Recycled Orchestra of Cateura would go so far? They are preparing for a tour throughout South America with the heavy metal group Metallica.

CROWD : Cateura! Cateura! Cateura!

[02:03:19]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : That's when one of the girls said we touched the sky.

CHYRON : JUNE, 2014

[02:03:43]

FEMALE : In Paraguay, major floods have displaced thousands of people in recent weeks. According to the latest count, there are around 43,000 families affected in the country. According to the National Emergency Agency, this number represents 214,000 refugees. This is the largest flood in over 20 years.

MALE : Families in Cateura are being forced from their homes due to flooding.

[02:04:15]

FEMALE : The flood refugees are living in makeshift camps and in unsafe structures of plywood and plastic in streets, parks, and plazas.

MALE : With the passing of each hour, the number of families forced from their homes increases.

MALE : Right now the Cateura landfill is totally flooded. This could lead to serious environmental consequences.

[02:04:53]

COLÁ GOMEZ : That used to be my house. When the rains began and the river swelled the water level began rising very quickly. I had to sell all my pigs because I have nowhere to keep them.

[02:05:28]

That's where my instrument workshop for the orchestra used to be. My greatest hope at the moment is the Recycled Orchestra. We had to move like refugees right next to the landfill.

[02:05:57]

I was able to save this can to make a violin.

ADA RIOS : The flood is affecting everyone here. My family is being affected, my relatives, my friends, and everyone I know here in my neighborhood.

[02:06:27]

It's really to see all of this in our community where we live and grew up.

JORGE RIOS : The majority of the population doesn't have anywhere to go.

[02:06:55]

There are time when nature can be so unforgiving with mankind. We're surrounded on all four sides by rising water. We are about to be flooded out of our home. We have to find a way to get out of here.

[02:07:21]

TANIA VERA HERTZ : The flood is upsetting me a lot. When I see all of the flooded homes - especially my own - it makes me really sad. To see people in the streets asking for help.

FEMALE : Those are baby clothes, sweetheart, for a baby.

[OVERLAPPING SPANISH DIALOGUE]

TANIA VERA HERTZ : There are many people that think only of themselves and aren't willing to help. It's really tough to leave your neighborhood where you were born and grew up.

[02:08:00]

My mom is very troubled by all this. She didn't want to abandon our home.

IDALINA HERTZ : I've lost everything. I feel helpless. I don't know what to do. For a while the water was rising very slowly, and then out of nowhere it rushed in. And that's when I lost hope.

[02:08:28]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : I'll meet you there on Wednesday, okay?

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : We're trying to find housing options for families of kids in the orchestra who have lost their homes due to the flood. As an orchestra we want to find a new home for the affected families.

[02:09:00]

NATIVIDAD ROMERO : When the waters recede, I'll carry everything to my house by myself if I have to. No one can say, "That woman is lazy." I work hard. I'm a fighter. I'm a fighter. I'll never abandon this neighborhood. [DOG BARKS]

COLÁ GOMEZ : What worries me the most is my wife. She is desperate to return to our house.

[02:09:35]

NATIVIDAD ROMERO : I can't sleep at night, so I pray to God and the Virgin Mary. [CRYING] I pray that the floodwaters recede that winds from the south blow away the rains.

[02:10:12]

TANIA VERA HERTZ : For right now, the orchestra is allowing us to stay in the school.

IDALINA HERTZ : If the orchestra had not allowed us to stay here, we would be living on the streets. But living on the streets is not a safe option.

TANIA VERA HERTZ : In the future, I'd like to find a permanent home with my family.

[02:11:23]

MALE : Good news. The level of the Paraguay River decreased 3 cm in Asunción. And the water level has stopped rising.

FEMALE : For the first time since May, the level of the Paraguay River is not rising.

MALE : The floodwaters are receding due to the decrease in the level of the Paraguay River.

ADA RIOS : The floodwaters were very close to reach my house. But we were very fortunate and our house did not flood.

[02:11:53]

JORGE RIOS : After nearly two and a half months, the floodwaters are receding. Families are moving back to their homes. This entire area is starting to come back to life.

[02:13:22]

COLÁ GOMEZ : We're going to do whatever it takes to rebuild our homes and our neighborhood. I'll fight to the end.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Let's take down the "For Sale" sign.

JORGE RIOS : Hold the ladder for me.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Don't worry, I got it.

JORGE RIOS : Take this. It's for you to keep.

[02:13:55]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : The idea is for several families from the orchestra to move here to live. The plan is for you to move here directly. You won't be going back to your old house. Do you agree with that plan? Yes?

IDALINA HERTZ : I'm always going to be by her side. I'll always support and help her.

[02:14:18]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Over there you can see the landfill. And there is Colá's house.

[02:15:05]

COLÁ GOMEZ : Alright, let's see what the problem is. We'll get this fixed in no time.

COLÁ GOMEZ : Since we started making the instruments, everyone in the neighborhood knows me. Kids say to me, "Don Colá, can you make me a violin?" It makes me happy that all the kids know who I am, and they appreciate me.

COLÁ GOMEZ : There you go. All fixed.

MALE : Thank you, Don Colá.

[02:15:29]

COLÁ GOMEZ : Thank you. Don't forget your bow little fella.

MARIA RIOS : Very good. Just the last few notes. Everyone play together now. Let's try it again. One, two, three.

[02:16:05]

MARIA RIOS : One, two, three.

MARIA RIOS : My dream is to become a professional violin teacher. I want to have lots of students here from the community and give them the opportunity to dream like I have had.

ADA RIOS : In the future, I'd like to be a professional musician. I don't see myself doing anything else.

[02:16:46]

TANIA VERA HERTZ : During all these years with the orchestra, I've learned the value of my friends, family, and those who support what we are doing.

JORGE RIOS : Who can help me hang this tarp? We need to spread it out and tie it up somehow.

COLÁ GOMEZ : Use the wire to hang it up there.

[02:17:20]

FEMALE : Be careful, Colá!

TANIA VERA HERTZ : I bet they ate all the food.

ADA RIOS : We'll be the scavengers.

TANIA VERA HERTZ : That's plenty.

FEMALE : Manioca?

TANIA VERA HERTZ : Yes. Just to let you all know, I'm not going to cry. I'm not going to cry.

[02:17:47]

ALL : [SINGING] Happy birthday to you! Tania! Tania!

TANIA VERA HERTZ : No! You're going to make me cry!

[APPLAUSE]

[02:18:16]

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Music is a unifying force. If you have talent and you work hard it is possible to fulfill your dreams in life.

FAVIO CHÁVEZ : Hello, good evening. My name is Favio Chávez. I am the Recycled Instrument Orchestra of Cateura conductor. Um, sorry my English finito.

[02:18:45]

Good, in Spanish. Good evening. It's a pleasure to be here. Our goal is to show that culture is a basic human need. That music

can change lives. And even when we live in the most unfavorable conditions, we must never stop dreaming. To have nothing is not an excuse for doing nothing.

[02:19:18]

Thank you very much. [APPLAUSE]

[ORCHESTRA PLAYS]

[APPLAUSE]

[02:21:16]

CHYRON : THE RECYCLED ORCHESTRA HAS CREATED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A SELF-SUSTAINABLE CHANGE IN THE LIVES OF THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OF CATEURA. HOW THIS CHANGE TAKES TIME AND NEEDS SUPPORT.

CHYRON : THEY RECENTLY FORMED PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF CATEURA IS WORKING TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND BASIC LIVING CONDITIONS OF FAMILIES IN THE COMMUNITY.

CHYRON : TO SUPPORT THIS CAUSE, PLEASE VISIT:

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[02:21:46]

[CLOSING CREDITS]

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