



Elie Barbeau , Le Faouët Music School

Elaine I'm here at l'Ecole de Musique at Le Faouët to talk to Elie Barbeau - his name may be familiar to some of our listeners as he manned the office at AIKB in Gouarec between 2007 and 2010 - so, first of all, could you tell us about this career change?

Elie It's really weird, because in fact when I came here and settled in Central Brittany, I didn't think that I would be going to talk in English first with the AIKB, and so, then I and I didn't think that I could play music because in fact when I was in Paris I was a student of music until the age of 20, so I played piano and, and saxophone so it was really amazing that I've been proposed to become the Director of the school of music, because in fact when I came here, I wanted to, to go back to music and I realised that there was school music in the area where I lived, and so I went to the school of music to get an improvement of the saxophone and took lessons with the uh, the teacher, and he told me that only for one year because after he realised that he didn't have to help me any more for the teaching, so, then he proposed me when the old director ... he decided to leave the school, if I wanted to become the Director, to replace, to replace him, and so it was a non-profit organisation as AIKB, and related to the, the aim of the organisation is to deal with, in fact integration of the people who are going to live and settle in the community of communes of Pays Morvan and so it's like in AIKB, I tried to integrate people in fact through different parts regarding to the, to the music then, so in fact I've got almost 18 teachers under my responsibility, so I've got one secretary with me and I'm working full-time ...

- Elaine So, where do your students come from, are they full-time, or part-time?
- Elie In fact, they are coming from the, all the area, the community of communes, we have 21 communes, the deal, the convention we've got with the communes is to create lessons in the three different cantons in fact in Gourin, Guémené sur Scorff and Le Faouët, and most of the part is in Le Faouët, because in fact we've got a new school now, since April, we've got ten rooms dedicated to music, and so in Gourin we've got only four rooms and in Guémené just only two...
- Elaine Well certainly, I mean, this is an amazing building, really impressive, and obviously so much thought has gone into designing each room to work with the particular instrument that is being played there ... well, I did notice one there's one that's very colourful with almost a jigsaw mat, who's that for?
- Elie It's for the babies! Baby musicians! The youngest pupil that we've got is only 6 months!
- Elaine Ha! 6 months?
- Elie Yes, he's coming with his parents, and so, just to sensibilisation (?), scale of sensibilisation of the music ...
- Elaine So, you have on perhaps an average day, how many students...
- Elie In fact, as we are in a rural area, in the province, we get about 2/3 of our pupils are at the age of between 0 and 16 years old, because in fact after the *collège* they have to go to the *lycée*, and, uh, and then, and then afterwards they are going to the cities, and as we are rural area they are going to the big cities ... and so we don't have many pupils of after 16 and 17 years old ... and then we've got adults! We're teaching for their pleasure, their leisure ... it's really interesting because in fact we've got those two

different ages dealing with all the orchestras that we've got and all the bands that we create between young pupils and adults pupil in fact ... that's the peculiarity of it all, we've those young children with older people, it's really interesting because we can see the interactivity between those two, it's really, it's really quite

Elaine Now, I understand you're also a very talented musician ... can you tell us which instruments you play?

Elie Ha! I play different instruments ... I first started with the, the piano, for 13 years, yeah, and then I decided to go to the saxophone, regarding the jazz, because I'm a fan of jazz and I like it, and so, and then when I went to the military service, I played the tuba because I was in a military orchestra and so they asked me to play tuba over there and when I came here in fact to the school of music we created the Fanfare, a band, and they asked me to play the tuba, and so we bought one and so we're playing now with the Fanfare and I'm playing the tuba, and sometimes I'm playing saxophone, when the jazz band needs to get someone, I'm going to play with them ...

Elaine Well, we really appreciate your time, Elie, knowing how busy you are, thank you very much, it's been good to catch up with you, thank you very much indeed ...

Elie OK!

