



Cynthia Musson, Gospel singer.

Rob. And I'm here with Cynthia Musson who's fast becoming *The Gospel singer of Brittany*. Thanks for talking to us today, Cynthia.

Cynthia. You're welcome, Rob.

Rob. Why Gospel?

Cynthia. Well, Gospel, um, is like a way of life for me. When you sing Gospel, it's something that's completely different you transmit a totally different emotion so yes, that's why. You get a feeling of joy. It's something that can, um, if you're sad, you can also use Gospel music as a tool to lift someone's spirit. Yes.

Rob. Could you tell us in your own words what is Gospel singing? I mean how different is it to the Blues for example or Jazz?

Cynthia. Well, um, first of all, Gospel, you can sing Gospel in any genre, any style whatsoever. For example I sing Gospel in the style of Jazz, Reggae, contemporary Gospel, Traditional Gospel, Blues Gospel, Zhouk,. You name

it. So you can sing it in any, any style, in any way you want to and that way you can always someone.. connect with somebody. So if someone, for example don't like the, uh, the traditional, they might for example like the Blues. So yes.

Rob. Is there always a religious aspect?

Cynthia. It is. Because Gospel, as you know the word 'Gospel' is 'The Good news', All the wor...., all the songs for example, the, some of the contemporary Gospel, it's not.... you don't mention the word 'God' but you know that's what you're singing about.

Rob. When did you bring Gospel to Brittany?

Cynthia. I ca... we moved to Brittany, um, about 5 years, 5 years now, so it's 5 years and I've been doing it on and off ever since. But it's since 2014... uh, 2014 I've been very, very active. And more so now that I've got a Gospel choir, yes, called 'Gospel 'Ys' and we're based in Quimper - total of 45 at the moment, 45 singers plus myself so, yes, its something that's taken off and my Gospel I think, the Gospel that we sing, my style, it's something that has taken off.

Rob. Any reason for that do you think?

Cynthia. Um, because it's different, it's something.... and I think the people in Brittany so far, um, they enjoy things that's different and it's not your

normal Gospel or the way they think it would be because they thought it was going to be something boring and dirgy whereas now they find something they can dance to. Oh yes, I do encourage a lot of dancing as... at my concerts for example and everyone can participate because there's always a Gosp.... a song or songs for the audiences to take part in and along with the choreography. So, yes.

Rob. So it goes down well in Brittany then?

Cynthia. It's going down very, very well. Normally from what I was told, what I've been told when they have *Gospel* concerts the most people that they would have would be sometimes 45, 50 but I get like 450, 495 at my concerts now so, yes, it's taken off.

Rob. And where do you sing?

Cynthia. We sing in, we prefer the churches but we sing also in Rouge.... Chapeau Rouge in Quimper but it's mainly in the churches because my chor.... my choir that prefer to sing in the church because they associate Gospel with the churches but we've also sung in, um, some halls, Salles, Salles de fêtes and um for example I did one here in my commune in Treffrin and the next one that is coming up soon will be in September at the Salle des fêtes in Treffrin.

Rob. So that's something to look forward to after the Summer..

Cynthia. That's something to look forward to after the Summer and so and I would invite anyone, everyone wanted to just come along just to see and experience for yourself this different kind of Gospel.

Rob. Ah, OK. Ok. That's brilliant. So you sing, you sing on your own but you also sing with a choir?

Cynthia. I sing on my own, I sing with a choir and, um, it's something completely different, I think, when I'm singing on my own. For example when I sing in the church it's something different because it's not, um, entertainment per se. It's just my way of just worshipping and adoring God and that's what it is but when I sing with my choir it's, it's different, it's different but they get the same emotion the same feeling but it's nothing too religious for them. So, yeah.

Rob. Are you planning to record your songs?

Cynthia. I hope so because in the past I've, um, I've, I've got an album and all the songs have been written by me so I'm not just a singer but I'm also a writer. I write as well and I play the keyboard and so at the concerts I'm the one playing the keyboard now with, I've got a guitarist, and I've got a very, very, good drummer. So, yes

Rob. The people in your choir they're all Breton?

Cynthia. Yes, they're all Breton people. I think there's only one person - I don't think she was born in Martinique, no - her mother was born in Martinique but that's about it, but she's French, so everyone that sings in my choir is Breton.

Rob. ..Because Brittany has a traditional music. It's very, very different.

Cynthia. It's very, very different and, um, but it's good to compare the two, um, because um Gospel is just something you can dance to. You can sing to. It's easier. I think it's something just completely easier, and I've found out that as soon as the music start, as I start playing or singing I realise that the people like to, to dance, yes. So, yes, for example, we had, um, last year we had one of our concerts was at the Church in St Hernin and we had about 475 people so it was, it was packed and they've said they'd never heard Gospel or music like that before but of course, you know, so I, I, we hope, I hope to take it a bit further and I'm expecting, I'm hoping to do some recording as well maybe before the end of the year, I hope. It's something I've got planned but at the moment I'm very, very busy with weddings as well so people are asking, they're requesting, the Breton people are requesting Gospel singing at their wedding so that's something else.

Rob. That's a great idea

Cynthia. It's not the normal traditional ones. They want something that they can dance to because it's a celebration, yes and I'm really thrilled. I'm chuffed.

Rob. Cynthia, It's great talking to you I'm hoping we can get to hear some of your music soon.

Cynthia. I hope so. You could at least come to one of our concerts.

Rob. ..In September.

Cynthia. In September - oh, oh. Oh we have another one I think scheduled in, in June, I just remembered but it's somewhere in Quimper because I'm the President of the Association Gospel 'Ys the choir which I direct, from time to time people are always asking. So we don't say. We never say 'no' so it's Gospel, It's singing. So, why not?

Rob. Cynthia, that's great. Thanks very much indeed.

Cynthia. Thank you very much, a pleasure.

