



Mia and Evelyne of 'Galant, Tu Perds Ton Temps'

Rob: I'm with Mia, and with Evelyne, from the group Galant, Tu Perds Ton Temps. What does this title mean?

Mia: It means lover boy, you are wasting your time. That's as, that's as clear as it can get.

Rob: Why the title, I mean, where does this come from?

Mia: It's in, uh, in many songs, in traditional songs in Quebec. It's a phrase that comes back in many songs, so, and it... we thought that it suited us very well.

Rob: Now, you'll have to explain why, because you have mentioned Quebec, so what brings you to, to Brittany?

Mia: Music brings us, we are on a small tour for five concerts for this week and we had contact... well, I myself lived here for a year back in 2001 and 2, and so I still have friends over here and with music you make many friends, so you keep contact to, to, to have news and, and I always dreamt of coming back here to sing, and so that's what's happening right now. It's an emotional moment as well. We are very happy to be here but I am especially happy to be in Poullaouen, in Brittany in general but even more in Poullaouen.

Rob: And Evelyne, tell, tell me about the group then. So you are called Galant, Tu Perds Ton Temps. Explain to the listeners what kind of group it is.

Evelyne: So we, we sing woman songs, traditional from Quebec. So all songs in Quebec, traditional songs are not especially for women or for men but there's a lot of women songs or, or songs who talk about woman's life, but these songs were sung by men, because there's no more womans to sing on the stage. No...

Mia. Very few, there are very few women singing on the stage.

Evelyne Yes, are doing traditional Quebec music like the song, Mitzi...

Mia. For a living.

Evelyne. For a living, you know, so when we began to sing we talked about it, what kind of songs we will sing and it was obvious, we have to sing songs about women.

Mia. It gives another point of view also when it's a woman that sings the song than when it is a man. If a man sings my father at only me for a daughter it doesn't sound the same as when it's a woman singing it.

Evelyne: We chose to make it only with voices because you know that many of us plays instruments but we chose to, to only use voices to, uh, to put the text on the front to tell stories so that the vocal harmonies come and they, uh....

Mia: Support

Evelyne: Support the stories.

Rob: OK. So would you say that you are doing something feminist, then?

Mia: Somehow, but our songs are about men. So we are feminist because we are for equality and, and....., yeah.

Rob: You've just given us a wonderful concert, with lots of wonderful songs. You were singing all in, in French?

Mia: Yeah.

Rob: But, with a very strong accent. Are there many links with Breton music, do you find?

Evelyne: Links with Breton music?

Rob: Because I heard many familiar melodies and the way you sang each replying to one another.

Mia: Yes, what we hear in the background it?, it means *chanson à réponse* which means call and answer songs, so it is the same thing except that they sing in Breton and we sing in French.

Evelyne: But most of Quebec traditional songs we can say that most of these comes from France, but a lot from Brittany, and Normandy, because, uh because Quebec is from there, you know. Basically, Quebec is born with a blend of France songs and Irish and, uh, Irish and English music, on the fiddle or the accordion and the, the songs are mostly from France. Especially a lot from Brittany.

Rob: And is there otherwise a strong Breton presence in Canada, in, in Quebec?

Evelyne: There is a presence, yes.

Mia: But there are presence everywhere, almost. You can see by the names you can know they are Breton but also there is a dance and to speak.

Rob: And clubs?

Mia: Yes, clubs too.

Rob: OK, so the tradition is European in a way.

Evelyne: Yes, we are like a blend but this blend, this basic blend now is, is a real, a real brand, yes. So we can say that there is a Quebec tradition now.

Mia: It's young but its, uh, it's true.

Rob: To come back to you personally, how does it feel to be in Brittany?

Evelyne: Brittany is a place of singers so its very, very flattering for us that we are invited here to sing 'cos we sing a lot in Quebec, everybody sings but it's more an

instrument players place, fiddlers, accordionists but in Brittany the singing is very put forward, so it's, that's a, it's a singers country so we had to be a little good to be invited and so we are very happy to be here.

Mia. People here are very familiar to us. It's like a ... you know, Quebec is in Canada a little bit like Brittany is in France. You know, like different from the rest a little bit, you know, like we speak French, we eat European food and in the rest of Canada they speak English mostly, not everywhere.

Evelyne: Our culture is different in Quebec than the rest of Canada. It's evident if you travel in Canada, you will see the difference but I think it's a lot like here.

Mia. We are like family, like old cousins. It's like coming back home, but you don't know the home.

Rob: That must be a good feeling then.

Mia/Evelyne. Yes

