



Gilbert le Bihan - Broken Arms Pipe Band

Rob And I'm with Gilbert le Bihan, who is the leader of the Broken Arms Pipe Band. First of all, why is the name Broken Arms Pipe Band, it's not a very Breton name?

Gilbert Well, it's not really Breton name but it's, it's a joke between 'broken arms/arm cassé' but it's also in French 'les bras cassés,' but in English it's 'broken legs'. This is a joke between English word 'broken arms' and 'broken legs'.

Rob You are an association of pipe players ...

Gilbert Not really. A lot of the pipers today are usually playing with people who like whiskies, who taste whiskies.

Rob Okay, you're a whisky fan.

Gilbert Yes. So, some of us play the pipe, so that is the story, the story of the band. The band is born in this, in this association.

Rob You're an association of whisky tasters!

Gilbert Yes. That's right.

Rob Okay, now you're a Breton, there's no Scots people here.

Gilbert No. We are all Breton.

Rob And why... what is the interest for you in Scottish music?

Gilbert In Brittany we play now the great island bagpipe. We all played in Breton band bagadu, but we have an interest for Scottish music, essentially pibroch. So it's a reason why we play the Scottish tunes on the pipe.

Rob So the initiative has come from the Broken Arms Pipe Band, but there are some other players with you today.

Gilbert Yes, some pipers are coming from different bands of Brittany, essentially in the Finistère, some pipers come from Gildinec, others from Brest, Redon in the south of Brittany, yes.

Rob So there's a link between you and all the different pipers in Brittany?

Gilbert Not really. We have a lot of friends different bands, but for this day it's only interest of the, of the moment.

Rob And you have links with Scottish institutions?

Gilbert Yes. Yes. Today is a special moment, initiative of the College of Piping from ... of Glasgow, who ask that all, anywhere in the world where there are pipers, they play specially for this day one tune, which is 'When the Battle is Over. So I think that anywhere in the world, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, but also Pakistan, Indonesia, etc., at this time, pipers play this tune.

Rob Because it's a special moment. This is the eleventh of November, and it's eleven o'clock in the morning, and we're on the top of St Michel de Brasparts. It's an exceptional site, and there's a great group of people who've come to listen to you. And you could have played all morning, I think. So this is a special commemoration. What's the story behind the tune that you played?

Gilbert The tune 'When the Battle is Over' was composed ... I don't know exactly when, but I think it's at the end of the First World War. But the commemoration is in honour of the 2000 pipers who fell during this war. I think it's a very special day for the centenary ...

Rob Yeah.

Gilbert I'm not sure that next year's commemoration was ... should be the same.

Rob It's a special occasion in a special in a special place and special music. So you have links with Scotland. You've been in Scotland yourself?

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Gilbert Yes, yes, yes. We have some friends in Scotland in band, in Scottish band. But yes, we are lovers of Scotland.

Rob Thank you very much indeed for talking to us, Gilbert le Bihan

Gilbert Thank you.