

Elaine interviews : Nathalie Presles of Association Thalie de Nantes à Brest

Elaine: So, Nathalie.

Nathalie: Yes.

Elaine: Now, over to you, because I know you're very involved obviously with what Paul is doing and have been.

Nathalie: Yes.

Elaine: And you're very much a, a partnership together.

Nathalie: Yes.

Elaine: But I think you've got another interest that's been ...

Nathalie: Yes.

Elaine: ... had to be put aside for awhile that's now bubbled up again.

Nathalie: Yes, absolutely. Actually, I'm a musician and I'm a writer, composer, and I just had a wonderful chance to record a new album which is coming out in, oh since December and named 'Topaz, 'and with wonderful musicians and they are all from the Kreiz Breizh. It is hard to go from English to Breton.

Elaine: Kreiz Breizh, yes, Central Brittany.

Nathalie: They are all from the Kreiz Breizh. Yes. And it's been a wonderful adventure, definitely and so I am very into that. That's a lot of energy too because this association, this wonderful association, which is really Paul's idea because he really wanted to build some boats, you know and take care of this canal because we actually really fall in love with that canal. But, then its, it takes a lot of time.

Elaine: Yes.

Nathalie: A lot of energy and actually I was able to invest myself a lot in this association the three past years because of the Covid, you know I lost my job as a musician. But now with this album I am really back into my activity hundred percent but still, I'm going now to still on the boats, you know, and having fun on the canal with the others instead of organising official events which we really have done. We've been very

happy to do it but then actually we are discovering also that it's a very, very good way of keeping the association in action to organise small things, you know in an off spirit, you know and like this there is a lot more sharing with people and learning and everything. So just to go back to, yes, my album, that's what I'm on right now.

Elaine: So, Nathalie, tell us about your band, how many are there, you're the vocalist?

Nathalie: Yes, well actually this is songs I wrote and composed for most of them but then there are also other composers, composers, I don't know how you say it.

Elaine: Composers.

Nathalie: But on that album I've got a big chance of having so, François Verguet, who is the guitar player I am working with and also made all the 'arrangements de la bon', I don't know how you say that in English.

Elaine: Yes.

Nathalie: The ...

Elaine: Arrangements.

Nathalie: Arrangements, okay, yes. There is Söig Sibéiril who came and did me a great favour you know and told me that he was, he would be happy to play on one of the songs and this is the song you are going to listen to after 'Ma Terre Noster 'with Söig Sibéiril on the guitar and we have a wonderful artist named Mathilde Chevrel who is a violoncello player.

Elaine: Violoncello.

Nathalie: Violoncelle, okay. Wonderful violoncelle player. And then also there is base and percussions on the album but it's François who is playing everything. So, on stage actually the full band were five but then really the, the er the main thing we can, you know, manage to make concert with three of us, you know. And, er, yes.

Elaine: So where do you play? Where are your, where can your gigs be found?



Nathalie: Where, well, you know we're just at the beginning of organising what's going to come next because we are just now finished that big work, and then we are just all the medias, you know taking care of us. We're almost closing that period and then now it's time for us to, yes, to realise the dream of playing onstage that album. And so we are looking for, you know, places to play and stages and er, and we also make private concerts, you know. You know, that's the.

Elaine: So, so how would you describe your music, what do you play and what do you sing? What genre would it perhaps fit into?

Nathalie: Well, mainly I would say that there is a folk spirit, you know, er with a really French tradition of writing songs, varied also. It's really my lyrics or, it's, it's poetry mainly really. And the music has several influences but mostly the term of folk came out when people are listening to it.

Elaine: With a sort of Breton feel.

Nathalie: No, no, no, no, no, there is, except that the, the song Mathilde Chevreil with Söig Sibéiril was very into the Celt spirit. The other, no, it's French songs you know but with a real folk spirit I would say.

Elaine: So, you've got this, this is your CD.

Nathalie: Yes.

Elaine: Your latest CD, called 'Topaz.'

Nathalie: 'Topaz, 'yes. And we've got a website too.

Elaine: And you have a website.

Nathalie: And we've got also, so the website, well, I guess maybe you will put it on.

Elaine: Yes.

Nathalie: But it's thalienco.com. And also we recorded the clip which is on YouTube of this song, 'Ma Terre Noster.'

Elaine: Right.

Nathalie: Yes. And so the whole album is on all the streaming, oh my God, on streaming.



Elaine: It's getting technical now.

(laughter)

Elaine: Okay. It is on media, streaming.

Nathalie: Yes, exactly. Yes, yes.

Elaine: That's brilliant. Well, we wish you all the very best of luck with that.

Nathalie: Thank you so much.

Elaine: I am so glad you've been able to revive that. Well, thank you both very much.

Nathalie: Well, thank you for

Elaine: For your time and I need a few names just to check up on here.

Nathalie: And really the English community is welcome on board. You know our association because we have a lot of fun with them and we already have an English crew, you know, with Tony. Tony has put on an English crew, er and er yes, it's worth discovering.

Elaine: Yes, good. Well, well done both of you and thank you very much.

Nathalie: Thank you.

Elaine: Thank you for joining us today.

Nathalie: (and Paul) Thank you so much.