



### *Music teacher for DEMOS – Stella*

Elaine: Stella - can you tell me how you are involved with this project and what you actually do yourself?

Stella: OK. I am a music teacher and musician. I play in ... actually, my main job is to play Irish music and other pop music, like Bulgarian (?) music, for instance. I was classically trained and so I am a music teacher in..... for DEMOS in two different groups in Glomel and in St Nicolas du Pelem.

Elaine: You get the children from the schools. Do they come to you or do you go into the schools?

Stella: No. They come to us. They come to the Centre de Loisirs.

Elaine: Which is where?

Stella: So, there's one in St Nicolas du Pelem and one in Glomel and basically the kids are there to learn music.

Elaine: And what age are they?

Stella: Between 7 and 12.

Elaine: 7 and 12.

Stella: Yes.

Elaine: And this is the first time that some of them will have ever played a musical instrument?

Stella: Yes. And on top of that they didn't really have a choice because you come to a group and that group has been assigned to a teacher and whoever that teacher is, is going to be the instrument that's being taught.

Elaine: Right. This is my understanding. That certain schools, maybe like in Laniscat, they have got clarinets or somewhere else they've got something else, so that each school has got its own particular instrument.

Stella: Yes. The aim of the project is not to make, uh, make super violinists out of a group. I mean, if the kids want to continue music after, of course, that would be great, but what we're trying to teach them is just music in general really, and through an instrument that always works really well. And if they want to change instruments later in life they will have a basis of music already.

Elaine: I think that does work, doesn't it? You find that people who can play the piano can then transfer that reading skills, music reading skills, to playing maybe another instrument. They can move from one to the other.

Stella: And we're also working with dance and with singing of course, as you saw.

Elaine: I was must amazed. What a wonderful way to spend a morning to see this! So how often do you meet with your ... all together.

Stella: All together we meet about once a month, and with the groups are each twice a week. They get music lessons for 3 1/2 hours a week.

Elaine: Wow.... that's all for free?

Stella: And it's all for free.

Elaine: All for free. And I think you mentioned the transport as well?

Stella: Yes.

Elaine: And where have the musical instruments come from? Have they been donated?

Stella: That was the Philharmonie de Paris that ordered them for us.

Elaine: Wow - that's fantastic!

Stella: Yes. Everything is funded by the CCKB and the sponsors that are involved in this project.

Elaine: So, what do you feel about this as a project?

Stella: It's a super opportunity for the kids to learn to play music and a super opportunity also to create coherent groups of, of, of friends. Yes - you're making a project together. I don't know if you remember how you felt after doing a theatre performance with your class in school, for example.

Elaine: Absolutely!

Stella: It's such a great feeling to put something down like that, you know. So that's every Saturday like this is already a bit, a test of that. You see how incredibly concentrated they are. Even if during the week they might be a bit more rowdy. You see some Tuesday nights for instance can be kinda hard because the kids are tired. It's Tuesday evening ...

Elaine: It's after school and they want to just run around and play somewhere.

Stella: Yeah that's it.

Elaine: And they have to work on a violin which is difficult as well, isn't it? Just holding it.



Stella: But we're trying to make it as dynamic as possible even if you have an instrument in your hands we're doing a lot of, what do you call it, warming up. Physical warm ups.

Elaine: I've seen that this morning with the singing and the movement.

Stella: Yes.

Elaine: And which are all part of, as you say, the warm up. The concentration is brilliant. Well, best of luck with it, Stella.

Stella: Thank you.