



DEMOS Music Initiative - Marine Chédotel

Rob: And I'm here in the School of Music in Rostrenen with Marine Chédotel who is the co-ordinator of a new project for Brittany - it's called 'Demos.' What's this project: what does Demos mean, first of all?

Marine: Yes Demos it's a Dispositif d'éducation musicale et orchestrale à vocation sociale, so it's, uh, it's something for kids from 7 to 11 years old. So it's a social project for those kids who never practised music before because of the social context and the economic context too because it's too far, because it's too expensive and so this, this orchestra for kids is free for the family so they, they have, um, three hour and a half per week of practice.

Rob: Three and a half hours a week?

Marine: Yes. We have two, two groups in school, at school, and, uh, we've got, uh three groups at the Centre de Loisirs.

Rob: The Leisure Centre?

Marine: Yes, yes. And we've got two groups - one in the music school, and one outside the school time in Saint-Connan.

Rob: OK. So, they are schoolchildren who are being encouraged to play instruments, maybe for the very first time.

Marine: Yes

Rob: Who, who started this project?

Marine: So it's a project by the Philharmonie de Paris - a big concert place - so it's a very big national ...structure?...

Rob: Structure.

Marine: ...structure yes. So they have this department Demos and they have 30 orchestras around the country. These orchestras are in Lille, in Bordeaux, in Paris, of course, and in lots of big cities in France but they hadn't any orchestras in rural areas so we are the first in France to welcome this orchestra.

Rob: Do you think it will be different for children from a rural area than from a city?

Marine: It's not the same problems because in the cities children can go to a concert very easily; can take music lessons easily. It's just expensive for them, but it's not very far. Here, you maybe you've got to take half an hour or more to have a music lesson for sometimes half an hour of lesson. So it's one hour



on the road with a car for just half an hour of lesson. So it's a big problem so that's why here we've got seven cities which work on a group. It's near the children in fact it's not very far for them.

Rob: Very important.

Marine: Yes.

Rob: So, do you go into the schools?

Marine: Yes. Not me, but we've got a musician.

Rob: They're teachers, presumably?

Marine: Yes, teachers. Of course.

Rob: Who go into the school?

Marine: Yes, to the school and the Centre de Loisirs.

Rob: Leisure Centres?

Marine: Leisure Centres - thank you! So they go in these structures to teach music to children. You've got two music teachers and one social worker with them and it's very important things because the skills will cross, you know. (I don't know how to explain it.) So it's a very important thing to have a social worker, to work with the music teacher.

Rob: This is very new isn't it? The idea of a social worker with a musician?

Marine: Yes. Yes it's new because you have a group of children and their interaction between them and the music teacher for individual lessons but here they have 15 children in front of them and the social workers are OK with that so they can help them to make a great, a great workshop.

Rob: This is a very interesting project. Has it been tried before?

Marine: In fact, the great idea of Demos comes from Venezuela and it comes from there because there were children in the bidonvilles...

Rob: In the shanty towns?

Marine: Yes. So, they've got nothing to do; nothing to...

Rob: They don't go to school even?



Marine: Yes. So their own music teacher and social worker who comes to make music with them and make music instrumentals.

Rob: And it was a great success, I understand? This experiment.

Marine: Yes.

Rob: Because it was an experiment in Venezuela.

Marine: Yes.

Rob: How many children are taking part in this, all together?

Marine: Yes. One hundred and five children.

Rob: A hundred and five children. From Central Brittany or from the whole of Brittany?

Marine: Central Brittany. We have groups in Saint-Connan, St Nicolas du Pélem, Rostrenen, Maël Carhaix, Glomel (j'ai oublié un) I think it's OK - seven groups.

Rob: So, if I understand it, you will be sending a teacher and a social worker into these different schools and different clubs to play music and to teach music. What are you hoping will come as a result of this project?

Marine: In fact it's, um, to develop all the skills from children because sometimes some of them are not very OK with the school you know - they don't fit, really, to, to, to school and it can help them; help them to develop some skills with the group, with social things and it will help them for that because they are by groups but five times a year they work with all the orchestra so they are one hundred together and they have to build something together.

Rob: It's not just learning to play an instrument, then.

Marine: No. It's learning to be somebody - to, to be a citizen to be a ... It's more than just learning music, in fact it just, it just protects for develop other skills, to make a citizen, in fact.

Rob: This project, then, is going to last how long?

Marine: It's three years, a three years project, but we imagine things for after because when it is the end of the mos.... what will happen after? We don't know yet but we think about it, since the beginning.

Rob: So, there will be public concerts?

Marine: Yes! It's the 19 June in Rostrenen in the new Salle des Fetes.

Rob: So, that's the 19th June.



Marine: Yes. And there will be one concert in the Philharmonie de Paris. So all the children will, uh, will go up in a bus to go to Paris and to play in the big, big concert ???, one of the best concert rooms in Europe.

Rob: Will the children have one particular instrument?

Marine: All the groups, the family of instruments. For example the group in St Nicolas du Pelem is called the Strings Section. They chose between the violin, the viola and the cello. You've got the trumpet and the trombone and the sax and everything in Saint-Connan. In Rostrenen you've got harps section. In Mael Carhaix you've got the violin, viola and double bass. You've got the flutes and Clarinets in Laniscat - yes, I forgot Laniscat before.

Rob: It's a huge project, just for this Central Brittany area.

Marine: Yes. It's very ambitious. It's a lot of work but it's really amazing to work for this kind of project which makes sense.

Rob: Marine Chédotel - thanks very much for your time explaining. I'm hoping we'll be able to follow this project in the months to come and it will be really fascinating to watch the reaction of the children. Thank you very much for your time.

Marine: Thank you.

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