



Rob interviewing Dominic on Zoom

Dominic: The first two lockdowns were quite weird and now myself and a lot of people were kind of done with lockdown after that and then we got hit with the third wave which is the worst one so far, a kind of mix of people who were taking it very seriously and some of them weren't taking it seriously at all, which I suppose you have everywhere. We're on levels here in Ireland, so we're on level 5, which is so far the highest, the tightest restrictions. So the city centre is quite quiet and working, we're working from home most of the time. Garda check points, so our police are out, but not in force, but just kind of showing a presence, so this is probably the biggest, the most severe wave in terms of all the relevant numbers, hospitalisations, and people in intensive care of all the waves so far.

Rob: Are you being obliged to wear masks all the time?

Dominic: Not all the time, but indoors and well, in crowded spaces and we're restricted to 5 kilometers from where we live, but there is still a bit going on, but this lockdown came right after Christmas, so there was no work opening up, schools didn't open up. Some business is open but most are closed or have got to work behind closed doors.

Rob: You mention that you are still working, so tell me about your work, what kind of things do you do?

Dominic: I.....am involved in probably too many projects at the minute. Mainly I'm the music coordinator at a place called the Learning Hub in Limerick, so there are an educational side with guitar lessons and drums. A junior music programme and a song writing workshop ...and also a recording studio umm, that operates professionally as a social enterprise, such as recording pieces of music, recording voices, audio primarily but an increasing amount of video, but mostly sound..... Either in the studio or we've gone out to schools or done live events.....so doing live sound or recording an event to be kind of posted online afterwards...or that kind of thing. So quite a wide variety of things and then quite a few other projects – an urban farm project that's in its 4th year and a couple of other kind of media things as well. So I'm mostly from home but hope it's closed and I have been able to go over as it's within my 5 k so I can go over to the studio.

Rob: I can see the guitar in the background there, you're obviously a musician. Do you get to play often out in public?

Dominic: At the moment no, not at all, but there's a few studio things going on so you can work remotely back and forth, but in terms of live music it's completely closed.

Rob: Is there anything that has been good about confinement for you, through lockdown? Has there been anything that you've done maybe that you've never done before?

Dominic: I've had plenty more time to practice, piano, guitar and things like that. To work on pieces of music a lot was hard, especially at the start of lockdown, trying to keep the motivation going for some reason for myself and a lot of people, a lot of musicians anyway, when what you thought would be a great creative opportunity wasn't really.

Rob: Has there been anything positive, I mean, you have had time to create a little bit more, Practice and so on?

Dominic: Yerr, I suppose it's helped me to get into a routine, which is easier said than done easier said than done. But by getting an earlier start in the day, working in the morning and early afternoon and finishing about net, whereas before I would have been quite chaotic in terms of a timetable, so I think when I go back I will try to keep to that and limit the late nights a little but that comes with the trade.

Rob: Is there anything about this last year 2020 that you want to see continue?

Dominic: Probably keep in closer contacts with people and family especially. We've been having a family zoom with the family for the past few weeks, which has been very good. I think we'll probably keep that going.

Rob: Do you think the world is going to be a better place after this is all over?

Dominic: ummm...it probably will, I don't know if you meant politically but I suppose, Donald Trump was probably going to sleep walk in to another term as US president if it hadn't been for Covid and it certainly knocked the stuffing out of Bolsonaro in Brazil I think to a certain extent. So I think, yerr.. the world possibly will be a better place. I think people are connected to nature a lot more. I think people may be getting a bit of a heads up of climate change. Protection of nature and pollution on the agenda, is coming increasingly on the news.

Rob: You're feeling reasonably optimistic for 2021?

Dominic: 2022 I think (laughs), 2021 is still up in the air really depends on so many things.

Rob: Dominic Chappelle, thanks very much for speaking to us from Limerick.

Dominic: You're very welcome