



Elaine interviewing Marine Chedotel about the Demos Project

Elaine: It's so good to see you again, Marine and I have to say I very much enjoyed the two tea on Saturday, because it's been a long time, and I am just so impressed by the children's concentration. The little ones, to focus so much for such a long time. I think the adults were getting more fidgety. So, how did the Covid restrictions affect the two teas, the rehearsals. Were you able to meet up?

Marine: Yes, we were able to meet. We have some restrictions, sanitary restrictions, we have to respect the physical distancing, wash our hands, wearing mask, and all those stuff, and because of the physical distancing, we can't be the whole orchestra, we have to make a half orchestra, sometimes three groups, and we are not everybody here in the same time and in the same place, maybe since one year now, we have this condition. It's not the same job for the children, because of the distance, you cannot hear the things as usual. It's very special, because, for example, the trumpets and the clarinets, etc., they need two meters of distance. The other, for example, the violin, it's just one meter. But for those with two meters, it's very hard, because you are very far from the others and you can't hear, usually. It's very challenging to hear the people around you. Yes, it's very hard, but the children are just amazing!

Elaine: Some of the students were not able to continue, but did it change things very much?

Marine: No, because there were not much children. Maybe we had five children who stopped Demos after the first confinement. And the third year, the last year, everybody was here. Everybody follows the video meeting and everybody is here. It's very amazing. And the families were very amazing on this point, because they helped their children to follow the video lessons and they are very incredible on this point. It was very impressive that every family followed this; it was very amazing for this second confinement.

Elaine: Did all the music teachers remain involved as well?

Marine: Yes. They are still here, and they were also amazing, because it was not very easy to have your workshops every week and now you are on face-to-face in video meeting, just one-to-one. It was not the same teaching; it was very different and they adapted their workshop. There are the technical things to manage; it's not very easy. We put some computers here for teacher who doesn't have access, because sometimes it's not very easy to have a good connection. We are not very far from the end of the three years and it's -- now you have to go ... I think everybody had this on their minds. We have two concerts: one in Rostrenen on the 9 of June and one at the Philharmonie de Paris, it's the 19 June.

Elaine: That will be probably the first time that some of the children would have been to Paris.

Marine: Yes. For some children it will be for the first time, so I prepare to visit the Eiffel Tower for them, because, the first time, for some of them, I wanted to visit some museum, etc., but they are closed for now. It's very hard to organise for me, because we don't really know what will be open this month. It's not very easy, but it's OK, because it's for children and we have to make everything for them to be a great journey for them.

Elaine: How long will you stay in Paris?

Marine: Three days.

Elaine: When you are performing in the Philharmonie there, what restrictions do you have to work around?

Marine: We don't know yet for the audience. We don't know if we will play in front of the public. We don't know yet. So maybe I will have to send an email to say, "Hello, there is the link for see the concert."

Elaine: And where will you stay?

Marine: In a hostel with everybody. Yes, it will be very funny.

Elaine: How do you describe the whole Demos-Kreiz Breizh experience, Marine?

Marine: A very rich experience. We just travel so much things with the Covid – the link between everybody – the link between the families and us, and the – yes, it is very amazing. And, for us, as professionals too, it was something very new for us, and we learned, everybody, how to make the most of – maybe, there is one word, it's "together."

Elaine: Will there be another one?

Marine: Yes, and two. In September there will be a one youth orchestra for children who are currently in Demos and want to have a very strong orchestra practice. So, we will propose something orchestral here in the music school, so that's for the children in Demos currently, and we open a new orchestra, a new Demos, for new children who want to begin.

Elaine: Well, I wish you the very, very best of luck ...

Marine: Thank you.

Elaine: ... all the very best on the trip to Paris. I'm sure some of them won't want to come back. Thank you very much Marine.