



## **Simon interviews : Michel Preumont, Music Reviewer**

Simon: So I'm here in, er well, I got lost getting here, but I'm here with Michel Preumont.

Michel: Preumont

Simon: Chevalier de Preumont

Michel: No, ???would be a knight

Simon: Um. Yeah. So Michel, you're a er journalist and a blogger.

Michel: Let's say a blogger.

Simon: A blogger, yeah.

Michel: Yeah.

Simon: And er you write a lot about events, er musical events in

Michel: Yes.

Simon: Brittany, and um I met you at a concert the first time when you came to see our concert. And I see that you've written a lot of reviews.

Michel: Yeah.

Simon: And you write reviews of um recordings too, I think, of discs.

Michel: Yeah.

Simon: Yeah.

Michel: They, they send me records too.

Simon: Okay, and where are your reviews published?

Michel: Er, on er well a site, a webzine called Concert Monkey, and we're called another one called Concert Review.

Simon: Okay.

Michel: But it's okay. Both are in Belgium.



Simon: Right.

Michel: They're based in Brussels.

Simon: And is that because you're from Belgium?

Michel: Yes.

Simon: Okay, so.

Michel: From Brussels.

Simon: From Brussels. And so how long have you been here?

Michel: Er. We start. Er. We've been living here for seven years now.

Simon: Okay.

Michel: We came er in er two 2018.

Simon: Right.

Michel: And we bought the house for two months.

Simon: Okay, so what brought you to Brittany?

Michel: ?????We we wanted to leave er Brussels. My father used to live in um Gascony.  
Ah at first, we thought to live there, but then OK. We went everywhere

Simon: Yeah.

Michel: And then er, well, finally it er became er Brittany.

Simon: Okay. So what brought you to start the blog and the writing reviews. Had you had any history of that before?

Michel: Er I organised gigs with a friend.

Simon: Okay.

Michel: And we had to make some um publicity.

Simon: Yeah.



Michel: And er well, er I used to write very small reviews for recital music in Belgium.

Simon: Okay.

Michel: Um. I could promote er the gigs we organised.

Simon: Yeah.

Michel: The people from music in Belgium asked me to to write about other events.

Simon: Okay, right.

Michel: And so on.

Simon: So do you have a background in writing in any other way? Or.

Michel: No. I used to be a teacher. But.

Simon: Okay.

Michel: No.

Simon: Okay. A teacher. That's a good place to start for writing, judging other people's writing.

Michel: I, I, I had er the luck to stop working, to stop work er at 55.

Simon: OK.

Michel: So er.

Simon: Ah, OK.

Michel: So, I had to... uh, everything has changed now, but er.

Simon: So how.

Michel: I had a lot of free time, then,

Simon: Yeah.

Michel: At that moment when I was 55.



Simon: Right.

Michel: Because before, I used to go to gigs, but not er, I didn't write about the gigs.

Simon: And so how often do you write about concerts and?

Michel: Nowadays, I should say twice a week.

Simon: Wow

Michel: But er when I was in Brussels, it was sometimes

Simon: Yeah

Michel: Seven gigs a week.

Simon: Wow. Wow.

Michel: Because in, yeah, Brussels, you have gigs everywhere.

Simon: Yeah

Michel: And Belgium is so small. E, e ... There was a gig in Antwerp, it was only 50 kilometers far. So.

Simon: Right. Right.

Michel: Everything, bigger.

Simon: Yeah. Yeah.

Michel: Well I knew quite a lot of people there in Belgium and they invited me to the gigs, too. Even, let's say, bigger gigs. I was so lucky to see Kleine Koval, I can't mention all the names.

Simon: Yeah. Sure. I'm sure. So do you have a particular kind of music that you prefer to review?

Michel: Initially, I was a blues fan, but er I listen to well other thing.

Simon: Yes.

Michel: Even classical music. Now, I don't know much about classical music, but it's

okay.

Simon: Yes.

Michel: I like Debussy, I like Ravel.

Simon: Yeah.

Michel: When we were in Verona, Verona, we went to er a Verdi opera. So yeah, okay.

Simon: Did you write about it?

Michel: Er. Not about the Verdi opera, because I still was at school, but yeah, sometimes I write about classical music too.

Simon: I think that's really interesting that you you know, normally we when we read classical reviews, particularly, they're usually by people who you know very well, knowledgeable about classical music, or at least they pretend to be.

Michel: Yeah.

Simon: And often they are musically literate, but I think it's more interesting to maybe to have a

Michel: My goal, my goal is, well, to be, let's say, between brackets, funny and not too serious. You know about the facts. So.

Simon: Yeah.

Michel: Even in er classical music, er you can put some more jokes, but yeah, it can be lighter than what some people write about it.

Simon: And I think with classical music reviews, because ev.. almost every piece of music has been played hundreds of times, and often by very famous people, I think for journalists, it must be quite hard to listen to you know a string quartet in a small town with not world class musicians, you know.

Simon: Yeah, well, then you speak about the one who composed the music.

Michel: Yeah.

Simon: In fact, you cheat, you pick up things everywhere, you mix everything, and you put it

Simon: Yeah.

Michel: Together to make an article.

Simon: Yeah, no, that's interesting. So do you have um, do you have a mission? You know?

Michel: No.

Simon: No, and you write about music that you like or not. Maybe you review music you don't like.

Michel: Sometimes I go to a gig and I didn't like it, and I'm not going to write certain ??? "It was really bad", but I will er write "The guy next to me said it wasn't good." Or something like that.

Simon: Yeah.

Michel: It's not me, yeah, so yeah.

Simon: And er, so you, how long have you, has your online? So the site you publish on? Is that your site, or is.

Michel: No, not really. In fact, we used to work for another site, a photograph and me. He wanted to to be independent and not to ask er, do you know the site? Can you ask for us? Er/ Can you ask that gig for us? And and he said, "Michel, I'm going to make my own sight,

Simon: Right.

Michel: Where, will you come with me". And I said, "Yes". And er unfortunately he stopped. Doesn't go to gigs anymore. And so, well, I'm not going to say I took it over, because there are three or four of them on the site.

Simon: Yeah, yeah.

Michel: But before this, before Concert Monkey we work for other sites. I told you Music in Belgium.

Simon: Yeah.

Michel: I had an article in Le Soir, but they wanted to pay me. And I can't earn money because I used to be a teacher, yeah.



Simon: Ah. OK, so that's complicated isn't it.

Michel: Yeah. OK.

Simon: So Concert Monkey is the main site that you publish.

Michel: Yeah, yeah.

Simon: And how long has that been running?

Michel: Since 2014.

Simon: Okay. quite a long time, nearly 10 years.

Michel: And. Well, there are people who write in er Dutch,

Simon: Yep.

Michel: In French, and er we, we write news items in English too, because we receive quite a lot of music. Can you talk about that? And have to, we can't answer all the people.

Simon: And did it? Are your reviews published like in local newspapers, or,

Michel: No. No no.

Simon: Just online?

Michel: Yeah, online.

Simon: Did you think about starting a music what would be called Fanzine, I guess, back in the days?

Michel: No.

Simon: No.

Michel: I think of stopping it. I'm getting old. Yeah, when I was a little bit younger, I told my wife, I'll stop at 65. Behind me.

Simon: Well, if you enjoy maybe you just have to do fewer.

Michel: I don't know, maybe you can go to gigs without er writing a review, but



Simon: Of course, of course. But I think one of the nice things about your writing is that you do take the time to,

Michel: Yeah, yeah.

Simon: Investigate and research, which is important, you know, to look at the artist and

Michel: Yeah, that's it. When, when I read other reviews, oh they put that, in fact, from the promoter, and if you read in the newspaper, they write two lines,

Simon: It's a press release. They write the press release.

Michel: I try to to yeah, follow the gig, what, what the band played, and all the titles and things like that.

Simon: That's, that's proper music reviews that I remember, you know, when people used to go to gigs and write a proper review. And I think it's er great that you do that, because I don't think so many people really do it. And, you know, I suppose that because we've lost the magazines, the fanzines

Michel: Yeah, yeah.

Simon: So if it's online, you know, because it's such an ephemeral medium, everyone forgets, you know, in a week what you published last week on Facebook or wherever,

Michel: Yeah

Simon: And so, but I think it's still interesting that you have a a site like Concert Monkey, where there is an archive, isn't there? It it's there,

Michel: Yeah. There are 1000s, like our site 1000 sites to talking about music.

Simon: Yeah, okay. In the 60s, there weren't er so many bands,

Simon: No.no.

Michel: And the musicians were real musicians.

Simon: Yeah, yeah

Michel: Okay.





Simon: Yeah, yeah.

Michel: Everything has changed.

Simon: Yeah, well yeah. So what's your next er? What's your next er review? Do you know what your next seeing?

Michel: I have to write about the gig I attended yesterday,

Simon: Yeah,

Michel: And tomorrow, I'm going to ???? for Animal Triste, which is a band from Normandy so I'm going to write about that when I find the time.

Simon: Okay, Michel, thank you very much for talking to Spotlight on Brittany. Good luck with the reviews. I hope you don't stop too soon, because I think it's really great that you do what you do. Thank you.

Michel: Thank you too.