

INTERVIEW WITH ALBA ARMENGOU BY ALBERTO BATISTA.



I took advantage of the Jazzing Festival 2022 in Barcelona, to interview different members of the Sant Andreu Jazz Band.

Today I present to you Alba Armengou, a very friendly young girl with great sensitivity.

She is now 21 years old, was born and resides in Barcelona.



Her parents are very music lovers. There is always music at home. Her mother studied the piano until the age of 18, and is a childminder. Her Dad, a physicist, practices the guitar, and listens mainly to classical music: Wagner, Beethoven, Bach, Mahler...

At the age of 3, she enrolled at the Liceu Music Conservatory in Barcelona. It is a well-established Conservatory with an international reputation.

When the students are 5 years old, the Conservatory organizes a presentation of the different instruments every week. Alba says that with each instrument presented, the flute, the cello, etc... she wanted to play it. Then came the violin, and his choice fell on it, until he was presented with the trumpet. It is definitely the latter instrument that she will choose.

The following year she began to learn classical trumpet at the Liceu Conservatory.

She met Joan Chamorro when she was 7 years old. She is admitted to the SAJB in the trumpet section. But at that time you had to enroll in the School of Music of Sant Andreu to join the SAJB. Joan taught sax there, and she decides to choose this instrument to have Joan as an instrument teacher. However, she continued to take trumpet lessons at the Liceu Conservatory.



She was 8 years old when she joined the Oriol Martorell school. It is the only school in Catalonia that has the particularity of teaching traditional teaching subjects in the same place, integrating music and dance lessons. In this school she has as classical trumpet teacher Juan Carlos Bello. She will continue the lessons with him until the end of her studies at Oriol Martorell obtaining her "Bachillerato", the equivalent of our French Baccalaureate.

She specifies that she also likes classical music, and that as such she joined the JONC (Young National Orchestra of Catalonia), a symphony orchestra which interprets Wagner, Beethoven, Bach, Mahler, etc. She will stay there for 3 years. .

Meanwhile, rehearsals continue at the SAJB. One day with Andrea Motis, when she was just 8 years old she was singing a capella, and Joan heard her. He offers her to sing with the SAJB. She loves to sing. From a very young age, she says that she always sang at home. She happily accepts the proposal, and this is how she participated in the recording of the CD "Jazzing 2" in 2010 when she was 9 years old, singing "When you're smiling", but also playing of the trumpet with the trumpets section of the SAJB. This will only be the beginning of many participations in the recordings of the various CDs of the collection, both playing and singing, until the last "Jazzing 11 Volume 4".

In 2018, when she was 17, the CD "Joan Chamorro presents Alba Armengou" was released. On this album of 16 titles, 13 are sung, 6 where she plays the trumpet, and one where she plays the alto sax. She is also part of the vocal group "La Magia de la Veu", and as such she participated in 2016 in the recording of the CD "La Magia de la Veu & Jazz Ensemble". She is still part of this vocal ensemble.



But, everything has an end. She will end her participation in the SAJB during the concert on November 25, 2022 at the Palau de la Musica de Barcelona, as part of the 54th Voll-Damm Festival de Jazz de Barcelona.



However, she continues her career as a musician. She is part of a very specific Jazz Big Band, since it is only composed of women or young girls. This is the “Clasijazz Valparaiso Big Band”. It is based in Almeria in the south of Spain, and other SAJB musicians such as Andrea Motis, Rita Payés, Alba Esteban, Eva Fernandez, Elsa Armengou, Irene Reig, Carla Motis, are part of this Big Band .

She also plays the trumpet in a completely different music group: Catalan rock-pop.

Alba has a personal project. She created a duo a few years ago with Vicente Lopez who plays the guitar. They have their own songs that they composed together, she sings and plays the trumpet. During September 2022, they will record an album of their songs, accompanied by musicians: drummer, percussionist, double bass player, saxophonist and flautist. The idea is that the record will be released in December or January.



She is also pursuing an academic career. She is going to start her fourth year at ESMUC (Higher Music School of Catalonia). European Higher Education Area). More than 900 students are registered there, coming from more than 25 countries. At the end of this course, she will have the diplomas allowing her to teach in the Conservatory of Music. However, she indicates that she has already had the opportunity to teach in a music school.

Well, the interview is coming to an end. Thank you again Alba, for the time you devoted to me with so much kindness and

naturalness. Goodbye!!!

