

INTERVIEW WITH ALBA ESTEBAN BY ALBERTO BATISTA.



During the Jazzing Festival 2022 in Barcelona, I met Alba Esteban who was kind enough to grant me this interview, between the sound tests and the evening concert.

Alba, 22, is originally from the Sant Andreu district of Barcelona, and still resides there.



Her parents always listened to music at home. Her mother would have liked to play the piano, but it could not be done. Also, at the age of seven, her parents enrolled her in the "Escola de Musica de Sant Andreu", without specifying the desired instrument, to be sure of being selected. While music lessons begin in September, it was not until January, when a student stopped sax lessons, that the "Escola de Musica" offered her the place, and she accepted.

From the start, she had Joan Chamorro as a teacher. She began to study alto sax with him. Three years after her apprenticeship, Joan offered her to join the Sant Andreu Jazz Band when she was ten years old, to play the soprano.

But quickly, she took up the alto sax again. Moreover in

the 2nd CD recorded by the SAJB (Jazzing 2) Photo opposite Alba was part of the saxophone section, on the alto sax. This was the beginning of his participation in SAJB recordings, until now.

At the age of 13, when Joan Chamorro left the "Escola de Musica de Sant





Andreu" to dedicate himself exclusively to the SAJB, Alba also left the Escola to follow him and take private lessons with him.

When she was 15 years old, Edu Ferrer the baritone sax of the SAJB, left the group. To replace him, Joan tried several formulas with Joan Martí, Marçal Perramon and Alba, every time Joan asked her to play the baritone, she told him that she did not want to, finding it too big compared to the alto sax which was then her instrument. But Joan insisted telling him that he thought she had a nice sound. Faced with Joan's stubbornness, she took her side, and since then she has been integrated into the saxophone stand, on the far right, looking at the stage.

Joan said she has a nice sound. I personally find that his game is light and airy, a bit like Gerry Mulligan. Besides, she tells me that she loves it very much.

To return to the SAJB recordings, Alba specifies that she is practically in all the SAJB recordings, since "Jazzing 2" in 2010.

But Alba doesn't just play baritone in the SAJB. She also sings with a voice that reveals great sensitivity. When we tell her that she sings well, she thanks us with a certain shyness. And to the question: "Which do you prefer: singing or playing?" The answer is quick: "playing because I feel more comfortable. I don't feel as safe singing as I do playing. There is like a barrier: the voice comes from you, while the sound of the sax comes from the instrument. »



However, she sings so well that Joan integrated her into the Magia de la Veu (Magic of the voice). It is a vocal group made up of SAJB singers. The 1st Magia de la Veu was born in 2014. Alba joined the Magia de la Veu N°2 in 2016, recording a CD in December of the same year entitled "Magia de la Veu and Jazz Ensemble". It was composed of: Alba Esteban, Alba Armengou, Elia Bastida, Andrea Motis, Rita Payés and Abril Sauri.

And, as is the custom with most senior band members, she released her CD, "Joan Chamorro presents Alba Esteban". 17 live and studio tracks were recorded, 3 of which are sung: A Sleepin' Bee, Lullaby of Birdland, I Never had a Chance.

Parallel to her activity at the SAJB, Alba continued her musical studies at the Superior Conservatory of Music of the Liceu in Barcelona, one of the most important and prestigious music schools in Catalonia. She has just obtained her Higher Diploma in Music last June, and she continues her studies from September by going to prepare at the Conservatory of Basel in Switzerland, her master's degree in saxophone interpretation.



I ask him, "What about your plans? ". A bit surprising answer "For the moment, I don't know yet...", but she adds: "I will continue with music right now, but in ten years? It's that I like other things, like cooking, and more particularly baking, science too, and in particular research, but also languages. I tell her that with her Higher Diploma in Music, and surely the Master's she will obtain in Basel, she will be able to teach? She answers me: "But I have always thought that I don't know how to explain well... so I don't know how I would end up earning my living, because living from music is not easy". But she immediately adds: "For the moment I continue the music, because I really like to learn, more than to teach. If only I could live from music, it's my dearest wish! »

Last clarification: "On November 25, 2022, as part of the Barcelona Jazz Festival at the Palau de la Musica, this will be my last concert with the SAJB. That day, I will pass on the baton to Koldo Munné. »

Here is this interview ends, it was a pleasant moment spent with her. Good luck and fair winds for your future Alba adventures!!!

