

INTERVIEW WITH KOLDO MUNNÉ BY ALBERTO BATISTA.



I met Koldo Munné last year during the Jazzing Festival of Sant Andreu, but more particularly during the Jazz Education Stage. During the jams that took place just after lunch, I had the opportunity to accompany him, with Scott Hamilton, Dena Derosé and Joan Chamorro on the very famous theme of Cherokee.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YBZrZWE3Pzc>

That day I understood that Koldo would be a great saxophonist, because playing like that at under 16 is extraordinary.

So I met him again this year during the 9th Jazzing Festival, and he was kind enough to grant me this interview.

Koldo will be 17 in November. He was born in Barcelona and lived in Sant Andreu (north district of Barcelona) until 2 years ago, when his parents moved to Poblenou another district of Barcelona.

His parents are musicians. They both teach in colleges in Barcelona. His father plays guitar and bass in rock bands. His mother plays the piano.

It was at the age of 6 that his parents enrolled him in the Escola Municipal de Musica de Sant Andreu. "I wasn't sure which instrument to choose," says Koldo. "There was availability in sax class, and that's how I found myself in sax class with Joan Chamorro".

When he was 8 years old, in March, he remembers, the Sant Andreu Jazz Band is in concert at the Plaza Real, near the famous jazz club "Jamboree". It was then that Joan offered him to come and play with them. He puts on the SAJB T-shirt, and now he is playing Easy Money in public for the first time. This is the beginning of the adventure for Koldo with the SAJB. For a year, he participated intermittently in various concerts.



It was at the age of 9 that he was definitively admitted to alto sax, although sometimes Joan asked him to play tenor.

As Joan always does, it is one of his principles in his training methodology, he asks Koldo to listen to a lot of saxophonists, and to transcribe what these same musicians play. He remembers that at the age of 10 or 11, at the suggestion of Joan, the three themes he played the most as a soloist were by Johnny Hodges. "But it's true that the sound of Johnny Hodges with a lot of vibrato is rather old, and as time passed, I discovered other saxophonists such as Art Pepper, who I really like, and of which I transcribed quite a few

solos that Joan suggested to me. Of course there is also the mythical Charlie Parker who enchants me, but also Lou Donaldson, Lee Konitz, etc... But if I had to choose one, it would surely be Art Pepper”.



To the question: How long do you work on your instrument per day? "I usually play an hour to an hour and a half a day, two hours if I'm really inspired," he replies.

But Koldo is so passionate about music that he even anticipated the questions I was going to ask him.

This is how before asking him which high school he was studying in, he followed his previous reasoning: "But you know, as I go to a school and artistic high school, Oriol Martorell, where Andrea, Magali, Elia, etc... there have done their studies, I play there a lot, and then I also play SAJB. In fact in terms of working the instrument, that's what I said, an hour to an hour and a half a day on average.

Regarding the rehearsals with the SAJB, Koldo indicates that it is in principle on Tuesdays, which are reserved for the work of the saxophone section at Joan's, at the Jazz House, for about two hours. "It's true that before the pandemic, we rehearsed every Wednesday with the full Big Band, either at the Jazz House or at the Taller de Musics". During the Covid, rehearsals for the full SAJB were no longer done on such a regular basis. It is true, adds Koldo, that to prepare for Jazzing 2022, we rehearsed a lot at the Jazz House, a little cramped it is true. "And after that, I now hope that the weekly rehearsals of the full SAJB can resume. I think that regular rehearsals improve the musical quality of the SAJB on the one hand, but we must also remember that we are a group, and that as such the social relationship, the camaraderie are important points in the functioning of the Big Band.



Since Joan Marti left the SAJB, Koldo has become the 1st alto in the saxophone section. He has participated in numerous recordings on the various CDs of the Jazzing collection for 5 or 6 years now. Knowing that the age limit for SAJB members is 21, Koldo has many more years to be part of the group, and that is what he wants above all else.

We can also note that for one or two years, Joan has been integrating him into various other quartet, quintet, septet type formations, such as during the Jazzing Festival 2022 where he was part of the Joan Chamorro Brazilian Septet which performed on 02/ 09/2022. He is delighted to be able to play it and appreciates it enormously.



There is also Koldo the singer. "I've been singing by myself for a very long time, because I've always loved it," he says. "But at SAJB, it's only been a year since I started singing. It was a shared decision with Joan. We've been thinking about it for some time now. Finally I chose "Go to Hell" by Nina Simone, and that's how I started. And now I am part of the "Magia de la Veu”.

It's time to talk about his future. "In the short term, he says, there are two important events. The first: I will play baritone to replace Alba Esteban who is finishing her participation in the SAJB. This handover will officially take place on November 25 during the concert at the Palau de la

Musica in Barcelona, as part of the Barcelona Jazz Festival. The second: At the end of 2022, beginning of

2023, we will start recording the titles of the future CD "Joan Chamorro presenta Koldo Munné". I'm really looking forward to this.

In the medium term, I plan to continue my musical studies, by integrating the ESMUC (Higher School of Music of Catalonia) to study jazz saxophone".

But Koldo really has the soul of an artist. Indeed he says: "I am passionate about music. Not only jazz, but many other types of music. I also love anything related to art in general. Not only music, but I am also passionate about cinema, illustrations and theater. I love to draw, make movies at home with my brothers, and write stories and screenplays. And so facing my future, it is obviously to continue in music, because it is in this art that I am most involved. Apart from jazz, I love composition, and if I could compose film music it would be quite extraordinary, because it's the mixture of the two things I love the most: music and cinema.

Finally, I feel fully integrated into this world of jazz, and delighted to be so, because thanks to Joan, I have many opportunities. I'll try to make the most of it."

Here is the interview with Koldo finished. I wish him the best in the coming years. I have no doubts about his future success.

