

## **Simon interviews: Maxwell Farrington | Singer**

Simon: I'm at Bonjour Minuit which is a very exciting venue in St Brieuc which has concert halls, several rehearsal studios and recording studios and I'm here with Maxwell Farrington. I saw you at your recent concert, concert at Ty Gavroche

Maxwell: Yeah.

Simon: And I'm surprised because I didn't from what I heard of your shows before I thought you had a band but you were playing with backing tracks and a very interesting catalogue of songs. So you're playing with backing tracks in a really, do you want to tell me about that, that show because it was quite a lively and entertaining show.

Maxwell: Yeah well it when I started singing or when I first figured out that I could sing and I wasn't terribly awful it was in Brisbane in Australia and every Thursday night there was karaoke and you could win 50 bucks.

Simon: Oh wow.

Maxwell: It was pulled out of a hat, it wasn't like out of merit. So I went every Thursday and I thought it was great, so I've sort of taken that where I'm singing to a backing track but with my own songs. It's kind of a cheat's way of that way I can it's horrible to say but I can drink a bit more excessively and not have the dexterity of playing an instrument.

Simon: OK we have to put an advisory here for anyone under 18 you didn't hear that. Maxwell just admitted to drinking on stage which I think we'll just gloss over. OK so that's interesting. So the backing tracks you create yourself right?

Maxwell: With real musicians in the studio and the songs are recorded and then I always ask when it's being mixed to have a version where it's just..

Simon: With no vocals.

Maxwell: Yeah, with no vocals.

Simon: Yeah. So tell me about the style because it was great you have this sort of huge musical theatre epic sort of 60s 70s big you know Engelbert Humperdinck, Tom Jones, that kind of big voice stuff going on don't you?

Maxwell: That would be cos I've got a few projects on the go, one is with a guy from Avignon in the South of France called Le SuperHomard and he's an incredible producer and arranger we have a project together called Maxwell Farrington.

Simon: So how long have you been doing this show?

Maxwell: I started doing this in maybe 2016?

Simon: OK.

Maxwell: Or 2017, before I released anything really. As soon as I recorded a song in the studio with whoever I was mainly in Toulouse, this was where I started recording in France. As soon as I had enough material to play a gig since 2017.

Simon: OK So tell us what brought you to France, because you're from Australia.

Maxwell: Australia. Long story but I'll cut it short. A friend paid for my ticket to London from Melbourne where I was living and then I moved from London to Leeds and then from Leeds to Marseille, and my plan was to meet Kevin Ayres, I'm not sure if you.

Simon: I know Kevin Ayres, yeah, I know of him.

Maxwell. So I met his niece in Australia, she was a friend of mine and so she said if ever you're in France I'll give you his address. Well he was in Montolieu which is sort of in between Toulouse and Marseille and so yeah I arrived in Marseille with the hope of going to meet him but I didn't have any money to travel, just yet and then after 3 weeks he died, so I missed that but I was in Marseille and...

Simon: And so what brought you to St Brieuc?

Maxwell: Well, in Marseille I used to hang out in like art galleries most of the time because of the vernissages.

Simon: The receptions, yeah I know them well.

Maxwell: I, don't know how but I had this VIP ticket to like this cocktail party and I was wearing a ripped OM shorts and a sleeveless shirt that I found in a bin and everybody was in tuxedos, but anyway I met my now girlfriend there and then she got a job here in St Brieuc.

Simon: Okay. So what made you put the show together I mean you said you started I guess shortly after you arrived here in 2017?

Maxwell: Yeah, It took me a couple of years to, I never wanted to be a singer, I wanted to back and write songs and have somebody else sing, but...

Simon: You're a great singer so that's a surprising admission to say I never wanted to be a singer, you know.

Maxwell: In Marseille I was a drummer for a post new wave band, but I don't know, it was just easier like to inject cos I wrote the songs.

Simon: Yeah, yeah, OK so you put a little band together to record and then what made you decide to do the show that way apart from being able to drink more easily?

Maxwell: Organisation.

Simon: Right.

Maxwell: I've got ADHD so organisation is a huge problem for me and organising people is er...

Simon: Managing people, managing anything is a real difficulty, but in actual fact TD/ADHD aside, managing a band anyway is really difficult isn't it, managing different personalities, managing things like rehearsals, organising, you know concerts and everyone's free, it can be really really tricky, so if you have the added disadvantage of not being very good at it or it being, you know overwhelming which it is .

Maxwell: And also like overly empathetic so if somebody says Oh you know I can't really make it, Oh no, that's fine, that's fine

Simon: I'll just cancel everything.

Maxwell: Don't worry about that .

Simon: Yep. It's only cost me 300 dollars, yeah, fine. So OK so you were able to get in a studio, record the songs. You've got an album haven't you that's available on vinyl?

Maxwell: I have, yeah, 2 solo albums, the first one was stuff that I did mainly in Toulouse. I recorded everything in 2017 and it came out in 2021 and then quickly followed it with a Christmas album.

Simon: Ah great.

Maxwell: I recorded the album with a friend of mine, Yann in Plouha. Cos during the lockdown it was sort of he could write me fake things you could say things like I was going to work so I got the bus from St Brieuc to Plouha and we recorded every Monday.

Simon: Yeah.

Maxwell: Really we did the album in probably 12 hours in total.

Simon: Wow, that's great.

Maxwell: And I wrote the songs while we were recording. You can tell that it's a very human album.

Simon: Well, that's great, because we're so used to I don't know I'm sure a lot of our listeners are dabbling music at home we're so used to just tinker away for hours and hours, days and days, weeks and weeks because everything is on a computer now nothing is ever finished and the idea of just going in and doing it as we know that some of the greatest albums in the rock catalogue were done in one day or 2 days. OK let's look at what you've got planned, what have you got coming up both gig-wise, concert-wise and recording-wise, what have you got in the diary?

Maxwell: I've got 2 albums on the go, one with Dewaere which is my St Brieuc outfit and it's our third album and a third album with Le SuperHomard. All the

demos are done, now I just have to read a lot of books and somehow get into and write the lyrics.

Simon: And your albums are available? I know we talked about the vinyl because I saw you selling them at your concert. But they're online? Do you have them on iTunes and all the usual.

Maxwell: Yeah, yeah, yes Bandcamp I guess is the easiest way .

Simon: But you have got them on the other places as well or is it just on Bandcamp?

Maxwell: You can listen to them on Spotify and Apple .

Simon: Yeah, so the normal .

Maxwell: I have somebody else that does.

Simon: I have a man or woman that does that for me, I know. And so OK so that's the recordings, so we've got 2 albums coming up this year do you think? Will they be finished this year?

Maxwell: No. Maybe the one with Le SuperHomard will be finished by the end of the year.

Simon: OK.

Maxwell: But it'll be coming out next year. And Dewaere I hope to have it finished by this year, we'll see again, I'm not working alone and the other guys are much more organised than I am.

Simon: Right.

Maxwell: But, Yeah. I still have to write all the lyrics.

Simon: Ok. and concert-wise what's coming up?

Maxwell: We just did a gig in La Rochelle, France Ferdinand, Franz Ferdinand.



Simon: Great.

Maxwell: And Yeah, it was a complete sensation.

Simon: Yeah, so what have you got coming up in late summer, July August, have you got much?

Maxwell: I've got a couple of gigs lined up.

Simon: Great, Maxwell it's been fantastic talking to you. Thanks for coming on Spotlight on Brittany.

Maxwell: Absolute pleasure.

Simon: And look forward to seeing you in concert somewhere. And have you got a website that listeners can.

Maxwell: No. You can type Maxwell Farrington into Google and...

Simon: And we'll find you that way.

Maxwell: Yeah, OnlyFans, SoundCloud, BandCamp, all of it.

Simon: Great, thanks a lot.

Maxwell: You're welcome.

Simon: Cheers.