

Interview of St. Patrick's music teachers by Youri Napoleon, translated by Linda Thisted

Thanks to the financial support of St. Paul and the Redeemer, the Saint Patrick's Band, Belloc, was formed in December of 2015, and the recorder classes began in 2019. Today students of St. Patrick's school learn music by learning to play the recorder, with 23 students in the newest class. The St. Patrick band now has about 25 members, both young people and adults, several of whom started by learning the recorder. With music offered free of charge to young people from this poor rural area, they allow themselves to dream. Here are the stories of two dreamers.



At 24 years old, Echenikeder LUXAMAR, a trumpeter, is passionate about music, and has a precise objective. "I want to be a great musician and be part of the biggest band in the country. With music I want to stop being a delinquent. When I come to St Patrick I am at peace; I always want to make my contribution to the band in order to welcome many more young people."

The band practices each week on Saturday mornings. After a few hours of rehearsal, Echenikeder and other young artists from the area prepare to return home.

Edzer MATHURIN, 32 years old, an enthusiastic trombonist, is now a professional musician and does not hide his ambition to go even further to become a renowned conductor in his community. "With my active participation and my learning in the band, I became a professional. Music changed my life; it made me flee violence. Now with my trombone in hand I earn money while playing in area brass bands at funerals. »

Thanks to the vision of SPR, Belloc today is different from what it had been before. There are many other initiatives needed in order to facilitate the social integration of young people in Belloc. Music represents a first asset, because music is universal and being a musician does not have a social rank.