

Hello Dear Friends of Maasin,

In recent weeks, all the people who support Pakigangay and others around us, families, friends and parishioners, have come forward after the passage of Typhoon Odette to support you morally and materially. Concerts have been organized to raise funds and make Pakigangay-Maasin known to as many people as possible. College students have undertaken to produce and record tales from Brittany to share them with the young people of Maasin.

We know how heavy this ordeal has been for all of you. Father Harlem, Chona and Ana had alerted us as soon as the typhoon passed and informed us of the situation of each of you. We have seen the efforts you have made to rebuild your homes. We hope that each of you has now been able to resume the course of a more peaceful life.



Maayong adlaw pakig-angay maasin,

Sa niaging mga semana, ang tanang mga tao nga nagsuporta sa Pagkigangay, mga pamilya , mga higala ug ang mga parokyano nagpa abot sa ilang pangumusta ug tabang niadtong pag labay sa bagyong Odette aron kamo matabangan sa mga damyos ni aging bagyo.

Nag organisa kami ug konsyerto para makatigum ug pundo ug para usab mahibal-an nila ug unsa ang Pakigangay. Ang mga tinun-an sa elementarya nag record sa mga sugilanon nga Breton aron ipaambit sa mga kabataan sa Maasin.

Kami nakasabot sa bug-at nga pag sulay nga inyong nahi-agian. Si Father Harlem , Chona ug Ana nag balita kanamo niadtong pag labay sa bagyo ug sa inyong mga sitwasyon. Nakita namo ang mga paningkamot nga inyong gibuhat pagtukod pag-usab sa inyong mga panimalay.

Kami nanghinaut nga kamong tanan magmadasigun ug malinawon nga kinabuhi.

The tales project with the year 8 pupils from St Marc Secondary School in Trégunc

by Guillemette Hougroun

This project was rooted in Pakigangay's Baroque Music and Philippines Tales show that took place on 9th October 2021 in ND de Lorette Church in Lanriec, Concarneau.

In order to "try out" the tales with a younger audience, I offered a "Racontée" (storytelling), without the music, to St Marc secondary school in Trégunc. The French and English teachers - Anne-Bénédicte Scelo and Isabelle Julienne - were both interested for the year 8 pupils as tales are part of their curriculum.

Isabelle Julienne chose to continue the exchange between the pupils and the teenagers of the Pakigangay Home in Maasin: a major challenge with Breton tales told in English!



In October and November 2021, I taught workshops to the classes organised in smaller groups. It was to introduce them to the art of tales, storytelling, oral literature: how can one move from a written text to storytelling, how can one find the frame of a tale to retain the different stages easily.

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I believe the visualisation exercise were an important expérience for the pupils. This is a mind visualisation to give life, colours and body to the words so that they really correspond to images. Let's take an example "the sand door": where is it? Is it open or closed? What is it made of: hard or soft, thick or thin, rickety or sturdy? What colour is it? Is it noisy? Does it smell of something? What type of sand is it, fine or thick grains? What's around it? What is coming towards it, animal or human? What is happening? ...

This makes the imagination richer with sensitive images: what I see, smell, touch, hear. And in turn, it helps unravel the story like a ball of string or like a film zooming in or out.

Indeed, all storytellers tell the stories that they see, this credibility then allows the audience to create their own images.

Following this, the pupils then chose and rewrote Breton tales in English with their teacher. This was a long activity of research and vocabulary learning.

At the end of February, beginning of March, we started another type of workshop with small groups (2 to 4 pupils) from their own written creations.

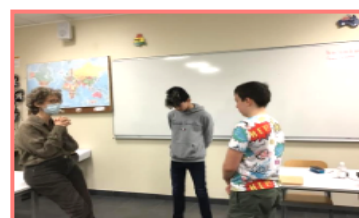
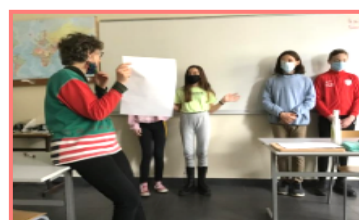
First things first, body warm up to help vocal placement, and get rid of stress !

This is the stage of body and voice storytelling, taking possession of the story to be able to give it out: specific work on breathing, pronunciation, expression and sound. I insisted on the importance of silence, the need for regular pauses within the storytelling to keep up suspense and above all to give the audience time to create their own images. And always: mind visualisation before starting.

And last but not least, during the last week of March, the last stage, the performance: the recording in the radio studio of the school!

Once all the tales have been recorded, it will be easy to send over the link to our Philippines friends so that they can have a taste of Breton tales by listening to our talented pupils. Well done Isabelle for helping them all the way on this project.

As for me, I got a lot of energy through their enthusiasm and I was really moved by their emotions, abilities and engagement.



Comments from the pupils of year 9 in St Marc middle school in Trégunc

What did you feel during this radio experience? What did you enjoy, what was more interesting for you for this project? What new things have you learnt?

It was good. First we learnt to get over our stress. (Timothée)

Working as a group on tales that we didn't know. (Lyna)

What motivated us was to know that we would be recorded and that we would read a text in English. We are going to be better in English. Even if it is a bit stressful to have headphones and a microphone at the beginning. Afterwards, it's funny to hear the others' voices. (Maelan)

I really enjoyed doing this, I liked speaking in a microphone for the first time; what was difficult was that we couldn't make any other noises. (Lucas)

In the tales, there are adventures and different characters, so different dialogues. We have learnt how to pronounce and stress the words, when to stop, how to speak together or one after the other. (Sarah)

We didn't dare adding on the sound effects because there was only one take and we couldn't mess it up. It's cool to be able to communicate with young people across the world thanks to the radio. (Maelan)

We have learnt a lot of vocabulary in English; at the beginning, it is stressful, but afterwards, hearing the others in the microphones, it's really funny, we are not used to it. It was funny and exciting! (Lucas)

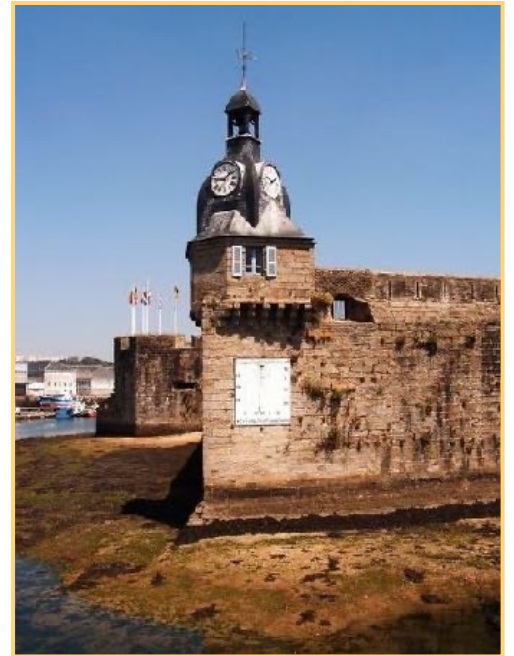


Concarneau

by Jean-René Blaise

Concarneau (Breton: Konk Kerne, meaning Bay of Cornwall) is situated only a few kilometers (15 miles) south of Quimper on the Atlantic coast. The town has two distinct areas: the modern town on the mainland and the medieval Ville Close, a walled town on a long island in the centre of the harbor. The Ville Close is devoted to tourism with many restaurants and shops. Also in the Ville Close is the fishing museum. The Ville Close is connected to the town by a drawbridge and at the other end a ferry to the village of Lanriec on the other side of the harbor.

Concarneau is also one of the biggest fishing ports in France. In August the town holds the annual Fête des Filets Bleus (Festival of the blue nets, named after the traditional blue nets of Concarneau's fishing fleet), which is a celebration of Breton and pan-Celtic culture. The Filets Bleus festival is one of the oldest and largest in Brittany, attracting in excess of a thousand costumed participants with many times the number of observers.



Clock tower of the Ville Close The harbor



White Sands Beach



Pakigangay is located in Gouesnac'h, near Bénodet, south of Quimper, the prefecture of Finistère.

Concarneau is about 15 km east of Gouesnac'h

March 13, 2022 afternoon, in Bigouden country, Father Armand Guézingar'parish, church of Saint-Tugdual in Combrit and its altarpieces of the 17th century. Informed by friends, posters, newspapers or radio, an hundred people gathered for a concert organized by Pakigangay association with the singer Maxime Piolot and his musicians.



In this beginning spring, the sun had warmed the hearts, the concert kept the flame alive !

Masked and «sanitary pass» controlled, everyone found a place in this beautiful church.

« Penn ar Bed », end of the earth (in Brittany language)! Finistère, its coasts, its harbours, its fishermen, its singers, its boats, its islands of Ponant, the Glénan, the islands of the Iroise Sea...certainly, but there are remote islands, in another end of the earth ! That one is called the Philippines, its name is Maasin. It also has its coasts, harbours, fishermen, singers, boats, islands, children, families, storms and smiles.

During the previous Pakigangay show, Guillemette interpreted tales and rhymes in the Philippine language to illustrate the tough links that connect us to Maasin. This time we asked a Breton singer from Finistère to create, during the concert and beyond, an atmosphere of sharing with our friends there.

«Sharing» is the meaning of the word «Pakigangay» in the Visaya language, spoken in Maasin.

«Sharing» is for the audience the meaning of people's presence, to listen to the artists and show its support for the association. In fact, two weeks later, during our general meeting, we had to contact Maasin's friends by videoconference, to tell them about our meeting in Combrit, and to show the encouraging support given at the concert.

Maxime Piolot has the talent to sing about «the soul of the islands», and also the soul of men ; the singer Corinne Schorp, playing the irish drum and flute, accompanies him in superb duets, sometimes even in Breton language «a boat is like a fisherman» or in German «the blockhouses». With his musicians, Carole playing the guitar, Dominique the accordion or mandocello, Xavier the violin, using his warm voice Maxime takes us in his harmonies. His inspired songs mix humanity, brotherhood, poetry, and sense of the divine. For nearly two hours his twenty texts selected for the parallel with Maasin, invite us to a fraternal world. With Dominique and Xavier, they show an obvious complicity. The audience takes up choruses, Maxime shares with us his convictions and his quests, inserting between two songs a few thoughts to be taken away by each one. Some words, especially about war, come to take on a burning topicality, may they be prophetic for the whole world...! We thank him.

Father Guézingar then mentioned in a few words the genesis of the association, and its actuality adjusted to the situation lived in the Philippines.

The audience was thanked for coming, sometimes from far away, to Bigouden country. After the concert, people had the opportunity to meet the artists and the representatives of the association, and showed their generosity, trying to overflow the «hat» that was presented to them, they also could get CDs of Maxime Piolot.

To express the shared satisfaction, the concert was qualified as a «moment of grace».