

Hello didgeridoo lovers, today we have the great pleasure of having with us Zalem Delarbre, one of the current references of didgeridoo worldwide.

Zalem started playing the didgeridoo in 2002. He progressively developed his own style, with his rock/electro influences and the integration of beatboxing in his playing. He joined different bands such as JMPZ, Wadhom, Vibration Visuelle, Milanga, and the duo Adèle & Zalem... which will take him all over the world to share his vibes. As a solo artist, Zalem uses the infinite possibilities offered by the didgeridoo and the human body to transport the audience into colorful, enchanting and dynamic worlds.

Did-Aca - Good afternoon Zalem, how are you. First of all we want to thank you for taking the time to share your experiences with the didgeridoo. We have a curiosity..... What attracted you to this instrument?

Zalem - What fascinated me immediately when I heard this instrument for the first time (when I was 11 years old) were these organic sounds, these sounds of space, this vibration, these harmonics which made Eoeoeo... at this time I had never heard such a thing, it interested me but I did not go further... 6 years later, I wanted to try to blow in this hollow wooden tube, and I fell in love with it !

Did-Aca -Who has influenced your style?

Zalem - Players like Gauthier Aubé, Mark Atkins, Ash Dargan, Denra Durr, and Ondrej Smeykal have influenced me greatly!

Did-Aca- Could you tell us something about breathing in general and / or circular breathing in particular?

Zalem - Breathing is essential, and often more than we think... In the didgeridoo, I find that it is the main element, because without a good management of the breathing, all the playing is influenced. When I learned the didgeridoo, I integrated the circular breathing right away, and that's why in my lessons I always encourage the players to start quickly. I think it's important to build your playing around the breathing, instead of integrating the breathing into your playing...

Did-Aca -Where was your first concert?

Zalem - The first real scene I remember was in 2006, invited by the band Djemdi during a crazy concert in front of 3000 people (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kzoOJ2SOX4A>) it was an extremely stimulating experience and I will remember it all my life.

Did-Aca -When and how did you decide that your profession was going to be a musician and / or didge teacher?

Zalem - A few years later, a band already quite famous in France recruited me to record their 3rd album and to go on tour with them... At that time I had never thought of making music a profession, but I went for it, and after a year of touring, seeing the pleasure I got from the concerts, I knew that this is what I wanted to do as a job !

Did-Aca -What types of didgeridoo do you like? which ones do you use in your concerts?

Zalem - I like the didgeridoo which are open, that is to say , quite large on the first third (more than 5 cm after the mouthpiece, inside), and with a light conicity... It is with these instruments that I can bring out the main elements of my playing style, the Wobble sounds and the integration of the beatbox. I like to use them in concert to be able to sculpt the sound as I like. I also use Woodside, which allows to reach all the notes, while having a very satisfying sound.

Did-Aca -Give me a reason to learn to play the Didgeridoo.

Zalem - It is a perfect instrument to start playing music, because the didgeridoo is the extension of our body, it directly transcribes all the sounds that we can make by blowing, and by making our lips vibrate. I had never made music before starting this instrument. And thanks to this first approach, an incredible world opens up to us, a world of rhythm and melodies, which will also give us well-being, by the management of breathing that it will make us learn.

Did-Aca -Among the multiple techniques that you master ... which one would you highlight?

Zalem - I think it is the mix of the didgeridoo with the beatbox, which brought me the most inspiration, and which colors my playing a lot today.

Did-Aca -And any constructor that you like how he does them?

Zalem - I love the work of Ujazi and Didgelement, they build instrument with a great precision in shaping, while having killer looks ;

Did-Aca - Any advice for someone who is starting to play the didgeridoo?

Zalem - I would like to give two advices, the first one is to have fun. The discovery of the multitudes of sounds that the didgeridoo allows us, is a very joyful adventure that will bring us satisfaction and well-being.

The second one is to not hesitate, from time to time, to try to reach what we don't know how to do, to go out of our comfort zone, to explore new worlds.