

Setting the beat in the UK! Mexican drummer takes her jazz to festival



“We’d have loved that, but it’s already planned,” was the reply **Migdalia van der Hoven** received when she belatedly asked if she could participate in the [EFG London Jazz Festival](#).

But **5 minutes later**, the situation took an unexpected turn: she became **one** of the **Mexican artists** to perform at **one of the UK’s most emblematic music events**.

*“It was 1 a.m. and they got back to me saying, ‘You know what? Someone’s canceled. Go ahead,’ and I replied: ‘Well, OK’. It wasn’t luck, **it was just being in the right place,**”* explained the Monterrey native.

<https://www.facebook.com/migdaliavanderhoven/posts/272380751505814>

This is how, on **November 16**, the **Tec graduate** and her quartet took their music to the festival, which has hosted renowned Mexican singers such as [Lila Downs](#). The event took place between November 12 and 21.

Migdalia, who graduated with a degree in **Marketing** from the Tec and from the **Berklee College of Music** in Boston, released her [“Girl Facing South”](#) EP (Extended Play) this year at [Ronnie](#)

[Scott's](#), and is now looking to provide artists with an **opportunity to make their way** into **jazz**.

[Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club](#) is one of central London's **most prominent jazz venues**.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CWYnvlZlscj/>

*"We had a guest, a friend of mine who plays the guitar, at the presentation. That was important for me because you're also giving a platform to others, and **it changes the flavor of what you're doing**.*

*"It's what I want for the future, especially for **women in the industry**. If I have an event, I'll invite them as guests because you **never know who'll see you**", she pointed out.*

[Migdalia](#), who lives in London, recalled the time when she was an artist invited to a launch and, as a result, was seen by a **jazz industry** insider.

*"**This is to be shared**. I know how difficult it is to get noticed, but I also know that it can be done," she said.*

The Tec de Monterrey graduate will perform with her band, **The Migdalia van der Hoven Quartet**, at the [Cornbury Music Festival](#) in the UK, in **July 2022**.

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Sarting out in music

During her **degree course** at the Monterrey campus, van der Hoven came across a **poster for "Raíces"**, a folk-dance company at the **Tec**, which would **determine her career path**.

It wasn't until a **tribute to "Cri Cri"**, the character created by composer Francisco Gabilondo, that Migdalia **discovered her passion** for performing jazz music on drums.

*"I realized this because of 'Raíces.' Many of the songs **were swing**, so nobody could play them, and it seemed to come naturally to me, so I did it. I said, '**I love it**,'" she mentioned.*

After graduating with a degree in **Marketing in 2008**, the Monterrey native **traveled to Boston** in the United States to study **jazz drumming for two years** at [Berklee College of Music](#), before moving to **London**.

Once in England, Migdalia posted videos on social media of her playing **songs on drums**.

When a clip of the artist went viral, different brands wanted to sponsor her, **she gained more followers**, and produced her own **jazz music album**.

LEARN MORE ABOUT MIGDALIA:

<https://tec.mx/en/news/monterrey/art-culture/mexican-drummer-whos-conquering-london-her-jazz>