

Hélène Dallaire

singer

Hélène Dallaire, currently living in Northern California, is working on another recording of old French folk songs.

Singer Hélène Dallaire, from Montreal, has started her professional life as an actress. She studied at the Conservatoire d'Art Dramatique de Montréal, where, while playing in a musical, she got her first taste of singing on a stage. She worked as a professional actress for a few years, alternating musical plays with purely acting work.

When she first started acting at the Opéra de Montréal, she had a total musical shock, being surrounded by some of the most beautiful voices in the world, accompanied by a major Symphony Orchestra, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. Although humbling, the awakening was so overwhelming that it brought her to acknowledge her yearning to commit herself to music. After some years of private training, she went to the Faculté de Musique de l'Université de Montréal to study classical singing with renown teacher France Dion. While at the same University, one of her teachers entrusted her with some beautiful French songs from the Renaissance era, little known, that had been compiled by a French musicologist. Those Christmas songs, most of them modal, called for a singing style more sober than pure classical singing, and that is where Ms Dallaire's years of listening to jazz and blues, her love for Ella Fitzgerald, Shirley Horn, Mahalia Jackson, Véronique Sanson, helped her to create a style that is her own.