

# Dion accepts industry's apologies

De Larochellière and Masse named singers of the year

BY RAY CONLOGUE  
Quebec Arts Correspondent

MONTREAL — She wasn't in contention for any of the serious prizes, but she walked off with the ADISQ gala anyway.

Céline Dion, who refused the "best anglophone record" award for her first English-language album last year because it made it sound as if she were less than a true Québécoise, came to the gala of the *Association Québécoise de l'industrie du disque* Sunday night to accept its apologies. These were profusely tendered in the *Prix de l'Union des Artistes*, and the newly invented, laboriously worded prize for the Quebec artist most illustrious in a language other than French.

Dion returned the favour with a show-stopping rendition of *Le Blues Businessman*, for which she dressed herself in a pinstripe suit and pulled her black locks into a Charlie Chaplinish semblance of a man's hairdo.

That said, and the thunderous standing ovation aside, one may go on to add that the singers of the year were Luc De Larochellière and the smoldering newcomer Julie Masse, while the award for best song of the year went to Marjo for *Je sais, je sais (I know, I know)*.

Marjo, a 15-year veteran of the industry, ran neck-and-neck in collecting awards with Masse. Apart from best song, Marjo won for rock album of the year, *Tant qu'il y aura des enfants (As Many Children as There Will Be)*, as well as rock spectacle of the year and videoclip of the year. Accepting her best-rock-album award, Marjo modestly suggested: "Buy one, it's going up in value."

Masse sizzled through a performance of *Prends bien garde (Watch Out)* in a sprayed-on black outfit, showing off her camera-awareness expertise by ending the song with her head thrown back, exposing to the TV audience a perfect jawline that was reminiscent of the shark in *Jaws* heading full speed for the surface.

She then accepted, apart from singer of the year, awards for discovery of the year and best first album.

Judging by standing ovations, the only serious contender in popularity with Dion is Richard Desjardins, who won for singer-songwriter of the year. The award was presented by singer Jim Corcoran, who prefaced it with a joke about a man finding a frog in the forest.

"Kiss me," the frog said, "and I'll turn into a Québécois singer-songwriter." "Forget it" came the reply.

Accepting the award, Desjardins promised "not to turn into a talking frog." He also won the award for most popular album of the year.

Also heavily awarded was De Larochellière, who has become a major star in France. Apart from singer of the year, he also picked up pop-rock album of the year and pop-rock spectacle of the year, both of these for the album *Sauvez mon âme... la mission (Save My Soul... The Mission)*. In his acceptance speech he thanked, among others, Jim Bakker and Rex Hubbard.

Other awards:

Group of the year: Vilain Pingouin.

Bestselling album: Gerry Boulet for *Rendez-vous doux*.

Classical album of the year: The Montreal Symphony Orchestra's recording of Debussy's *Pelléas and Melisande*.

Best country and western album: Georges Hamel, *Le cowboy des temps modernes*.

Best children's album: Radio-Québec's *Le Club des 100 Watts for Le Club des 100 Watts*.

Instrumental album of the year: Richard Grégoire's *Les filles de Caleb* (from the record-breaking television series last season).

Jazz album of the year: Uzeb, *World Tour '90*.

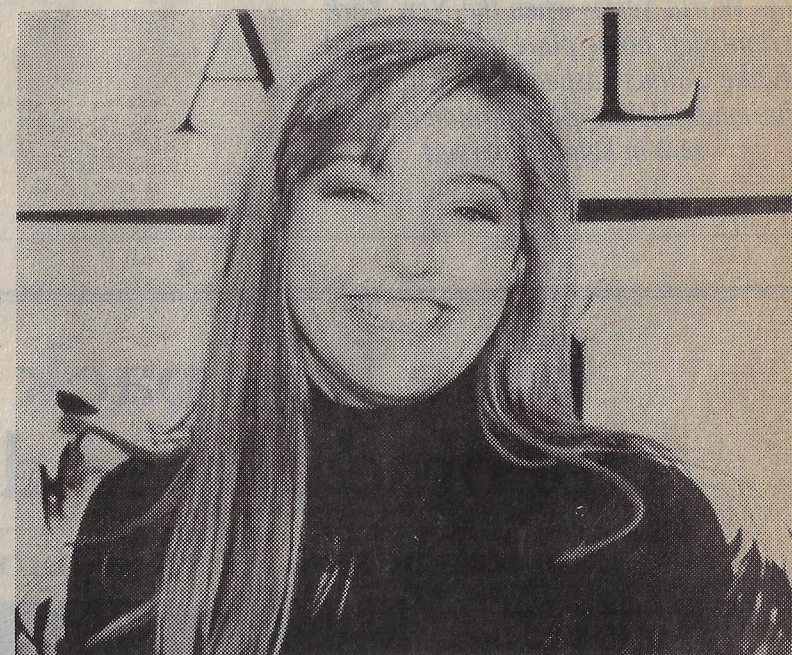
New Age album of the year: Patrick Bernhardt's *Solaris Universalis*.

Popular spectacle of the year: the company of the Montreal production of *Les Misérables*, which featured David Mirvish hesitantly expressing in French his appreciation for the talent of Quebec.

TV song of the year: Roch Voisine, *L'idole*.

TV humour broadcast of the year: Spectel Vidéo's RBO, *La grande liquidation des fêtes 1990*.

And special prizes to the Cirque du Soleil (Félix Hommage), De Larochellière (Prix Mozart), and Jean-Marie Benoit (Prix de la Guilde des musiciens du Québec).



Julie Masse: a smoldering newcomer.

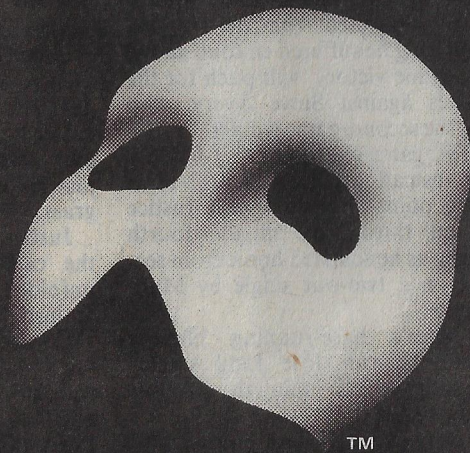
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