

CHRISTINE ATALLAH OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHY 2008

Born in the wintry North, there is nothing cold about singer **Christine Atallah** who took to the bright lights early, making her first television appearance at the remarkable age of four years old. Born in a conservative Arabic family, she heeded her musical calling early and ran away from home at 17. Still a rebel today, she commands attention, speaks out for women and is a fascinating and erudite entertainer. Her voice has been compared to Natacha Atlas, Souad Masi with shades of Fairuz. Her band- **The Bassalindos**, have been likened to **Pink Martini** and the **Gypsy Kings**. Their multilingual, exotic first album blends pop, Latino, jazz and Arabic colors in a unique and cosmopolitan mixture. The band is composed of musicians from Eastern and Western musical traditions, embodying the peaceful concord that can come through tolerance and collaboration. Christine's vocal beauty, inspiring poetry soars on melodies of plaintive Middle Eastern keys colliding with Western jazz scales and pop chords. Newer compositions feature more instruments and colors from other countries for album two: **Aqua Aura**. Mr. Abul Kader Rhanime, Senior Ethnomusicologist from **The Smithsonian Institute** says Christine: "delivers music that is emotionally moving and rises above religion, race and politics."

Christine had early training in classical singing, was quite literally, discovered out of a cast of 1000 in Verdi's **Aida**. The illustrious opera company gave her a voice scholarship to study voice in Milan. Christine then toured the world with them and won a bevy of vocal awards. This led to an onscreen appearance in the **Academy Award nominated film: Jésus de Montréal**. Christine's performance was featured on the Soundtrack in three memorable movements from Pergolesi's **Sabat Mater**. The film swept the Genie Awards in Canada. Until this day, people recall the hauntingly beautiful singing of the intense, dark haired young girl. Christine moved to New York where she composed original compositions alongside producer Clifford Anderson of the **Sonny Rollins Band**, while there she studied dance on Broadway, recorded and appeared in more films and music videos. She completed her university training in music with distinction and founded **The Bassalindos** who have performed as far as Amman Jordan, and in Alexandria Egypt and notable Festivals around the world. Their **Escapades** album (Bolero Records 2006) has been described as: "A magic carpet ride [evocative of exotic countries, harem princesses, and moonlight nights on the dunes under the stars...](#)" Christine's song **Salam**, in five languages is featured on permanent exhibit along with her autographed photo at **The International Peace Museum** in Samarkand.

Christine has been a muse to Canadian composer **John Winiarz**. From the time of their meeting, Christine, as performer and muse has inspired, premiered or performed in some 12 of his compositions. Christine keeps up her vocal chops by singing several styles of music. She often collaborates with Montreal jazz pianist **Billy Georgette**. Her main writing collaborator is **Danny McLaughlin**, the band's guitarist, formerly a classical player from Moncton in the Canadian Maritimes. Much of Christine's music has been inspired by her world travels whether touring or pursuing her passion of **scuba diving**, **parachuting** and **dancing tango** when she is not onstage. She speaks **four languages** fluently and can get by in six, she dabbles in the language of whatever country she happens to be in; a true citizen of the world. The melting pot atmosphere of her beloved home city, Montreal, along with her longing to compose, nurtured Christine to make the leap to writing and recording original music reflecting diversity and the beauty of a merging world. Christine hopes that she can bring about change and inspire tolerance for others, hope for peace and awareness through music.

Christine tours with the **Bassalindos**, writes and records as well as collaborates with other recording artists. She finds time to pass the torch of her knowledge and in between could be found searching for her inspiration in far away countries, writing, perched within a living postcard.

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Review by Jonathan Widran (All the web.com)

Even if you don't speak any of the five languages that the sensuous-voiced Christine Atallah sings on this magical, multi-ethnic kaleidoscope of a collection, you'll find yourself seduced as Atallah and her band sizzle, groove, and sway with a mix of unique Arabic, Latin, and jazz flavors. The classically trained Quebec-based singer has an incredible pedigree, which includes singing in the Academy Award-nominated film *Jesus de Montreal*, being discovered during a tour of [Verdi's Aida](#), and touring the world as a featured soloist. Those world travels inform the exciting jazz scales, pop sensibilities, and global grooves on this multifaceted collection, which begins with the swaying flamenco/Arabic fusion on "Taa, Ya Habibee" (the title has something to do with harem nights, but who really knows?) and continues with the loping Egyptian charms of "Idman" and the dreamy violin and conga-spiced Latin gem "Me Voy." Beyond Atallah's always appealing lead vocals, there's a general emphasis on polyrhythmic textures provided by Arabic percussion and instruments like the oud. One of the more dramatic and hypnotic tracks is "Salam," which mixes snappy acoustic guitar lines, an inspirational English lead vocal, and the explosive chantings of [the Montreal Mass Gospel Choir](#). In the midst of the very danceable party, she provides a happily dreamy oasis in the tender sunswept "M'Envoler." These only scratch the surface of the numerous exotic treasures on this exciting CD from the label that introduced the brilliant nuevo flamenco guitarist [Armik](#) to the world.

Press:

- "Enchanting." *Le Devoir*

- "*Bassalindos compose and perform their original music .The delightful selections are wistful to amusing, inspiring to enrapturing, playful to profound. The Bassalindos radiate a sincerity and integrity, a tribute to the power of music which transcends race, religion and politics and appeals to what is common to humankind: love, life, hope and the soul. Talented musicians from several traditions play side by side, each contributing their own distinct flavor to a unique interchange of musical textures and colors. A mysterious Arabic pulse in a nuanced musical tag between East and West. A great show!" Al Mustakbal*

- "**Local Luminary steams up the Festival du Monde Arabe with her sublime voice." *The Mirror***

- "Three Cheers." *The Gazette*

- "A bewitching world diva. Natural and unpretentious. A great joy to behold onstage." *Artists Quarterly*

- "*Profound and passionate, sensually jazzy and latin moods folded into an invigorating mélange of eastern rhythms and oriental melodic color. A fresh sound and an impressive band.*" *Fonoto Magazine*

Digital Press Kit: www.sonicbids.com/ChristineAtallahTheBassalindos

* 6 songs from the album are featured on the [audio page](#)

Official Website: www.bassalindos.com

My Space:

<http://www.myspace.com/bassalindos>

Podcast with Christine <http://outsidepodcast.com/>