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dione taylor

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Biography of Dione Taylor

Music has always been part of Miss Taylor's life. Hailing from Regina, Saskatchewan, Miss Taylor began playing the organ at the age of four. By ten, Dione Taylor had assumed the role of music director and organist at The Shiloh Assembly Church (Apostolic), where she began developing her singing voice. Shortly thereafter, at age twelve, Miss Taylor began vocal and piano lessons at the Royal Conservatory of Music. Taylor received two Voice Scholarships upon high school graduation. She decided upon the University of Regina, where she majored in Voice (Classical and Opera). At the same time, Miss Taylor was performing in local jazz clubs and festivals, drawing inspiration from **Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald, Nancy Wilson and Johnny Hartman**.

Having made the decision to pursue a jazz career, Miss Taylor moved to Toronto in 1996. She attended the world-renowned Humber College Of Applied Arts and Technology where she received the **Thomas Kehoe Memorial Award** for her outstanding vocal performance style. Most notably, Miss Taylor was selected to be one of six jazz musicians from around the world to participate in "**Jazz and the New Generation**," a program sponsored by **The Kennedy Center** in Washington D.C. Led by jazz legend **Dr. Billy Taylor**, Dione and ensemble performed a concert on the **Millennium Stage** at **The Kennedy Center** that was broadcast live over the Internet. Miss Taylor graduated with honors from Humber College in 2003, and began immediately working around Toronto with her quartet.

On May 31st 2004 **Soular Productions** proudly released Dione Taylor's debut CD "**Open Your Eyes**" (Matay Records) to a packed house at Toronto's notable jazz club, the **Montreal Bistro**. Merely two weeks after releasing her debut CD, **Canada's** own **Dione Taylor** was invited by Dr. Billy Taylor- no relation- (Jazz Piano Legend, National Endowment of the Arts, Artistic Director of Jazz at The Kennedy Center) to perform with him and his trio for a celebration commemorating June as **Black Music Month** in the United States. The ceremony was held at The White House in Washington D.C. before an appreciative crowd of dignitaries including the **President of the United States** and the **First Lady**.

"As a black Canadian female artist I consider it an honor and a privilege to have been invited by Dr. Billy Taylor to commemorate and acknowledge black music's contribution to the world."

- Dione Taylor

In October of 2004 Dione Taylor 's debut album "**Open Your Eyes**" was nominated for an award by the Urban Music Association of Canada (UMAC) for jazz recording of the year. The 6th Annual **Canadian Urban Music Awards (CUMAs)**, the flagship event on Canada's urban music calendar, was nationally broadcast on **CBC Television**. Representing the jazz category, **Dione Taylor** and her trio performed a selection from her debut CD "**Open Your Eyes**" at the awards show.



February 7, 2005 The **Canadian Academy Of Recording Arts and Sciences** (CARAS) and **CTV** announced the nominations for the 34th annual **JUNO Awards**, Canada's Music Awards. Among the nominees are the key players in Canada's music industry including artists, producers and music industry professionals. Dione Taylor's debut recording "**Open Your Eyes**" from Matay Records/Festival received industry acknowledgement with a nomination for **Vocal Jazz Album of the Year!**

Dione Taylor's debut album "**Open Your Eyes**" is on regular rotation on radio stations across Canada, United States, Netherlands, Belgium, Australia, Germany, France, United Kingdom, Spain, Italy, Israel, Finland, Scotland, Denmark, Japan, Argentina and Russia. Dione Taylor is most definitely a rising star in the jazz world!

Miss Taylor is presently touring Canada, the United States and the jazz festival circuit (Festival International de Jazz de Montreal, Toronto Downtown Jazz Festival, Oakville Jazz Festival, Hillebrand Jazz Festival, etc.) in support of her debut CD. Miss Taylor is also a regular in the Canadian recording studios, having done work for the **CBC**, **DreamWorks** and a variety of international talent.



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