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## ■ The French Connection

*NASE Member Lucie Therrien owns French American Music Entertainment in Portsmouth, N.H. Her Web site is [www.LucieT.com](http://www.LucieT.com).*

### Tell us about your business.

I make my living as a concert musician, a recording artist, speaker, film maker, and certified music teacher in piano, guitar, voice and French folksinging. I perform nationally and internationally. The bulk of my earnings are from performing or as an artist-in-residence, and occasional speaking engagements. The second part of my income is generated from the sale of my videos and DVDs,

my 13 recordings, and publications. The third part is derived from my private students. I have always been my own agent, and publish under my own label.

### What sparked your interest in French music and culture?

I was brought up bilingually, in a household with a French-Canadian papa and an English-Canadian mother. Sunday afternoons were spent jamming with my father who was a fiddler.

I am a multicultural person, love languages and am very curious about what makes people so different from country to country, and within countries. The more I travel, the more curious I am. The more languages I am exposed to, the more languages I understand. I sing in eight languages, speak only three, but understand a few others.

### Do you listen to contemporary music?

I am interested in world music, combinations of musical genres that merge culturally. For example, I enjoy *La Bottine Souriante* (The Smiling Boot), a French-Canadian band that marries traditional Quebec music with Louisiana jazz.

### What draws listeners to your music?

I have a particular niche. I sing both traditional and contemporary, and communicate to audiences in English or French about the culture and history of the songs I sing.

In my original compositions, I merge two different influences in my life: French culture and words, and my exposure to American styles. I also have a unique voice and can accompany myself with piano, guitar, spoons, harmonica and drums. A big plus!

### What's the greatest reward you get from your work?

The satisfaction of creating it, giving it out, and receiving gratitude from people. If I were to do it just for myself, I would stop. I need the public's feedback.

### What do you do for fun?

I write music and lyrics, travel to exotic places like Croatia, Malta, Vietnam, North Africa, Martinique, and especially France and Italy. I have friends all over the world. For the past year, I have been writing poetry, reciting it publicly and receiving accolades; that might be my next project, you never know. I also swim, walk, paint and invest in real estate.

### What's been your biggest success?

Being self-employed. Having control over all aspects of my business: the booking, accounting, public relations, advertising, creativity, artistry, publication, travel arrangements. I enjoy all aspects of it. I have had invitations to be managed, but refused them because I wanted to preserve my quality of life.

