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Crippling accident gives rise to singer's debut CD Melody Gardot began making music as part of therapy Marke Andrews, Vancouver Sun

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New voices continue to call out from the dense forest of the recording industry, and three young American women deserve to be heard.

Philadelphia's Melody Gardot has a compelling background that would make a good TV movie. At age 19, she suffered crippling injuries when struck by a vehicle. Unable to walk, she recorded original songs as part of her therapy and, once she was able to get to a studio, Gardot recorded her first CD, *Worrisome Heart* (Verve), a 33-minute collection of 10 original numbers.

Gardot, now 22 and still physically disabled from her accident, has a warmth of tone, vulnerable yet sultry, and she favours jazz inflections and moody presentations. She also plays guitar on the tracks. The title track is bluesy; *Gone* creates a sense of longing as she sings along with Diane Monroe's violin about the loss of a lover, and Gardot resembles Norah Jones on the ballad *Some Lessons*. The track that stayed with me was the easy-flowing *Love Me Like a River Does*, a haunting number in which Gardot and Matt Cappy, on muted trumpet, use space well, choosing just the right notes. This is a wonderful debut disc.