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After her advanced studies in Sciences and Technologies applied to Music (Acoustics, Physics, Ph. D. in computer science applied to speech synthesis, 1985), Marie-Hélène Serra spends 2 years at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh US to do research in computer music.

Back to France, she works as a researcher and computer engineer in the research institute directed by composer Iannis Xenakis (the CEMAMu, Paris) (1987-1992).

She enters IRCAM (Institut de Recherche et de Coordination Acoustique/Musique, Paris), in 1993 as a music technology teacher and a multimedia project manager. She becomes head of the Education department of IRCAM in 1998 and develops the educational activities for composers and the use of technology for transmitting contemporary music to young people and music lovers.

Since 2002, she is the director of the Education department at the Cité de la musique in Paris, as well as the director of the new Multimedia Library. She is in charge of all the educational activities (music workshops for young and adults, concerts for families, conferences for adults...). She has also managed the project of the new multimedia library of the Cité de la musique (inaugurated in October 2005) where she develops different projects related to the music digital library field : music digitization, on-line distribution, on-line multimedia educational tools, etc. She directs several projects of collaborative thematic portals funded by the French ministry of Culture : www.musiquecontemporaine.fr (participant) ; www.viedesorchestres.fr (leader); www.spectaclesdumonde.fr (leader).