


Caroline Léonardelli



Caroline Léonardelli performances have been described with many adjectives however they all have in common her sense of musicality and strong emotional connection with the instrument.

Caroline's repertoire includes compositions from many cultures however her heart is with French and European composers and Canadian composer Marjan Mozetich.

In addition to solo performances Caroline performs with the Four Seasons Harp Quartet (Jennifer Swartz, Lori Gemmel, and Caroline Lizotte), Para Arpa Harp Duo, and with Mezzo-Soprano Julie Nesrallah.

Caroline has performed at numerous festivals including Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival, Baie des Chaleurs International Music Festival, Elora Festival, and the Sainte-Petronille Chamber Music Series.

In her performances Caroline engages audiences with stories behind the repertoire she performs and her development as a musician as a young girl in Paris. Caroline has recordings with the Para Arpa harp duo, Ottawa Bach Choir, and mezzo soprano Julie Nesrallah and is currently in post production of a solo recording featuring the compositions of Canadian composer Marjan Mozetich.

Caroline is accepting requests for this coming performance season.

Additional information about the artist can be found on her website: www.carolineleonardelli.com

Caroline Léonardelli
caroline@harpmusicottawa.com
613-296-4405

Centaur Classics
centaurclassics@rogers.com

Biography

*“Achingly ethereal
playing...”*

– Richard Todd, The Ottawa Citizen

*“Performances
of sensitivity and grace,
exhibiting
a wide range
of subtle colours...”*

– Dan Foley, Whole Note Magazine

Caroline Léonardelli classical harpist has an accomplished career at as a soloist, chamber musician, orchestra musician and teacher. Born in France, Caroline graduated with first prize in harp from the Paris Conservatoire under the guidance of Jacqueline Borot at the age of 18. Caroline went on to advanced study with Judy Loman through the McGill University School of Music. During her youth, Caroline studied in France with Lily Laskine, one of the most celebrated harpists of the 20th century.

Caroline is principal harpist with the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra and Orchestre symphonique de Gatineau. She has also performed as a guest with numerous orchestras including the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, the London (Ontario) Symphony, Symphony Nova Scotia, the Gatineau Chamber Orchestra and Opera Lyra.

Caroline is a member of several chamber ensembles including the Four Seasons Harp Quartet with harpists Jennifer Swartz, Lori Gemmell and Caroline Lizotte, the Para Arpa harp duo with Caroline Lizotte, and a voice and harp duo with mezzo soprano Julie Nesrallah. Caroline has been invited to perform in sole and in ensemble at numerous festivals including the Elora Festival, Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival, Baie des Chaleurs International Festival, American Harp Society, Rideau Hall, and Paris & Nice Summer Academy.

Choral work is a passion for Caroline. She has performed a wide range of repertoire with numerous choral ensembles. The 2005 Evergreen Wishes CBC produced concert of the Ottawa Children’s Choir, featuring Caroline performing John Rutter’s Dancing Day received a Gabriel Award.

Caroline has completed a number of recording projects, all of which have received critical acclaim. The releases include Panache with mezzo soprano Julie Nesrallah, Impressionisme by the Para Arpa harp duo, and A Christmas Story with the Ottawa Bach Choir. Caroline is currently recording Marjan Mozetich’s Eldorado with the Penderecki String Quartet and Songs of Nymphs for solo harp. You can hear Caroline frequently on both CBC Radio Two and CBC Radio-Canada broadcasts.

Caroline has a full class of students and is affiliated with the Ottawa Youth Orchestra Academy.

Selected Repertoire

The following is a listing of typical repertoire for solo performance:

Marcel Tournier

Féerie (Prelude et Danse)

Marjan Mozetich

Song of Nymphs (composed 1988)

Prelude

Reflection

Ritual

Freedom

Gabriel Fauré

Une châtelaine en sa tour, Op. 110 (composed 1918)

Jean Michel Damase

Sicilienne variée (composed 1966)

Jesús Guridi

Viejo Zortzico (composed 1949)

Bernard Andrès

Elégie pour la mort d'un berger (composed 1982)

Claude Debussy

Girl with the flaxen hair

Little Sheppard

Henri Busser

Pièce de concert

Respighi

Siciliana

“ **A jewel of a recording.** Mezzo-soprano Julie Nesrallah and harpist Caroline Léonardelli complement each other wonderfully on *Panache*.



What is the colour of Julie Nesrallah's voice? Honey and occasionally caramel come to mind, but most of all one thinks of dusky gold. And what colour corresponds to Caroline Léonardelli's playing? Pearl, without a doubt. If you can imagine the musical equivalent of a golden brooch studded with perfect pearls, you'll have an idea of how this CD sounds.”

“ **Harpist highlights exquisite concert:**

The highlight of the performance was undoubtedly Léonardelli's achingly ethereal playing of the Interlude, the longest and possibly most perfect movement of Britten's ever-popular Ceremony. That movement was worth the price of admission by itself.”

“ **This is one of the most refreshing and delightful Christmas CDs to come along in years.**

*Caroline Léonardelli's harp is an almost constant presence, and her solos, like Marcel Tournier's *Trois Noël's pour harps*, op. 32 are among the most exquisite offerings. Even better is her version of the Appalachian carol *I Wonder as I Wander*.*”