

The combination
of voice and harp has
enchanted audiences
for centuries.

The wealth of rarely
recorded material
inspired mezzo-soprano

Julie Nesrallah

and harpist

Caroline Léonardelli

to record and

perform *Panache!*



Julie and Caroline are charismatic performers that are an excellent attraction for chamber music festivals. In the summer of 2007 the duo performed at the Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival and their *Rhapsodie de Noël* concert with organist Tomas Annand produced by Centaur Classics was recorded by Espace Musique for national broadcast in December 2007.

Julie has performed at numerous music festivals to critical acclaim including Ottawa, Vancouver, Merritt, Courtenay, Haliburton, Huntsville, Winnipeg, and at the prestigious Glenn Gould Studio in a concert for national broadcast by CBC Radio.

Caroline Léonardelli is a member of the Four Seasons Harp Quartet and the Para Arpa Harp Duo and has performed at festivals including Ottawa, Baie des Chaleurs, Elora, and Sainte-Petronille.

Julie and Caroline are accepting requests for this coming performance season.

Additional information about the artists can be found on their websites:

www.julienesrallah.com and **www.carolineleonardelli.com**

Contact Information:

Julie Nesrallah

Caroline Léonardelli

Centaur Classics

mezzonez@yahoo.com

caroline@harpmusicottawa.com

centaurclassics@rogers.com



julie nesrallah mezzo soprano

Described by Artistic Director Timothy Vernon as “a future supernova,” mezzo soprano Julie Nesrallah is an extremely versatile singer and actress who dazzles audiences with her rich tone, engaging personality and deeply expressive communicative skills. Miss Nesrallah performs principal roles with leading opera companies, orchestras and renowned ensembles across North America and abroad. She has also performed for many prestigious festivals and events such as The Canadian Opera Awards and An Evening of Peace for Her Majesty Queen Noor, and was invited to sing for Princess Haya in Amman, Jordan, to launch an endowment fund for underprivileged women to study music in Canada. Miss Nesrallah has also been featured in the Bravo!TV documentary The Classical Now and is regularly broadcast on NPR & CBC Radio.



caroline léonardelli classical harpist

Caroline Léonardelli has an accomplished career as a soloist, chamber musician, orchestral musician and teacher. Born in France, Caroline studied with Lily Laskine during her youth. She graduated with first prize in harp from the Paris Conservatoire under the guidance of Jacqueline Borot, and went on to advanced study with Judy Loman at McGill University. Caroline is Principal Harpist with the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestre symphonique de Gatineau and has performed with orchestras throughout Canada.

Her recording projects include Impressionisme by the Para Arpa harp duo with Caroline Lizotte, A Christmas Story with the Ottawa Bach Choir, and Panache with Mezzo Soprano Julie Nesrallah. Caroline is currently completing a project featuring compositions from Marjan Mozetich and performances with the Penderecki String Quartet

Caroline is a member of the Four Seasons Harp Quartet with harpists Jennifer Swartz, Lori Gemmell, and Caroline Lizotte.

Program One:
Panache

Giovanni Paisiello (1740-1816)

Nel cor più non mi sento

Vincenzo Bellini (1801-1835)

Tre Ariette per camera

Il fervido desiderio

Dolente immagine di Fille mia

Vaga luna che inargenti

Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643)

Lasciatemi morire

Marcel Tournier (1879-1951)

La lettre du Jardinier

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

A sa guitare

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Three Byron songs opus 95

An den Mond

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Fleur de blés

Beau soir

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

En prière

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

Cinq mélodies populaires grecques:

- Chanson de la mariée
- Là bas vers l'église
- Quel gallant m'est comparable
- Chanson des cueilleuses de lentisque
- Tout gai!

Program Two:
VIVA Latina!

Manuel de Falla (1876-1946)

Seven Spanish Songs

- Voice and Two Harps

Enrique Granados (1867-1916)

Spanish dance #5

Jesus Guridi (1886-1961)

Viejo Zortzico

Georges Bizet (1838-1875)

Habanera from Carmen

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

A sa guitare

Program Three:
Mélodies d'Amour

Reynaldo Hahn (1874-1947)

L'Enamourée

Infidélité

Quand la nuit n'est pas étoilée

A Chloris

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

Fleur de blés

Nuit d'étoiles

Beau soir

Vincenzo Bellini (1801-1835)

Tre Ariette per camera

Il fervido desiderio

Dolente immagine di Fille mia

Vaga luna che inargenti

Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643)

Lasciatemi morire

Marcel Tournier (1879-1951)

La lettre du Jardinier

Henriette Renié (1875-1956)

Près d'un berceau

Jean-Michel Damase (b 1928)

Epigrammes et Madrigaux



A jewel of a recording

Mezzo-soprano Julie Nesrallah and harpist Caroline Léonardelli complement each other wonderfully on Panache.

Richard Todd

The Ottawa Citizen

Panache (Centaur Classics)



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.

More specifically, it includes 21 songs by nine composers. In most cases the harp accompaniments are arrangements of keyboard or orchestral originals. This isn't as simple a process as it may seem. Even though the written music for harp looks similar to that of the piano and is played with two hands, the harp has neither the piano's dynamic range nor quite the same degree of chromatic flexibility. The arrangements work well, even if it's hard not to imagine the original piano setting hiding in the notes in Schumann's *Three Byron Songs, op. 95*. Monteverdi's *Lasciatemi morire* comes off especially well. It was conceived and written several generations before the piano was invented, and the composer would not have expected, or probably even imagined, the range and flexibility of the modern instrument.

There are also pieces specifically written for voice and harp by Marcel Tournier and Gabriel Fauré. Not surprisingly, these songs are among the most appealing. Three songs by Debussy and Ravel's *Cinq mélodies populaires grecques* are of similar appeal despite being transcriptions.