

Caroline Léonardelli concert harpist and recording artist is a renowned soloist, chamber musician, and teacher. Caroline's solo recording *El Dorado* received a JUNO Award nomination in the category of Classical Album of the Year solo or small ensemble. Her latest solo recording *Impressions de France* has been selected by Apple Music editors as one of select harp recordings worldwide for their feature on the instrument.

Caroline has been described as a "World Class Harpist" in Harp Column Magazine, and her live performances have been reviewed as "Brilliant" and "Outstanding". Reviews of Caroline's *Impressions de France* recording: "What she brings or adds to the music at hand, to any piece she plays, is magical" "She sees beyond the notes and recreates what the composer had in mind" Classical Music Sentinel. "It is her artistic sense of pacing and of shaping melodies within cascades of notes that help make these performances commanding." WholeNote Magazine. "This is a French album for me like no other", "warm touch, coupled with an articulate technique" "thoughtfully chosen and laid-out repertoire, filled with surprises and all masterfully presented" Harp Column Magazine. Caroline has released seven recordings on her own label and has a worldwide digital distribution agreement with NAXOS

Caroline's recordings and live performances have been featured on CBC Radio, NPR Classical 24 network and Classical stations throughout the USA, Canada, Europe and Asia. Caroline's live radio performances include interviews and performances on PBS/NPR radio's Backstage Pass series. Caroline has been featured on CBC National Radio show *In Concert* performing at the Women's Musical Club of Toronto in solo performance and with the Afiara String Quartet.

Caroline's chamber and solo performances include Carnegie Hall (Weill Recital Hall), Leith Summer Festival, Music Niagara, Indian River Festival (P.E.I.), Music and Beyond Festival, Women's Musical Club of Toronto, Festival of the Sound, Prince Edward County Festival, Ottawa International Chamber Festival, plus numerous others. In addition to solo performances Caroline performs with soprano Ellen Wieser, mezzo-soprano Julie Nesrallah, organist Matthew Larkin, in harp duo and quartet, and with string ensembles.

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. After arriving in Canada Caroline completed an Artist Diploma at 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.

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 teaches at Carleton University and De La Salle High School for the Arts. Caroline has a private harp class has developed some of Canada's finest young harpists including

## **Caroline Léonardelli, harp**

## **Biography**

graduates from Eastman, Yale, and University of Montreal. Caroline's former students were principal harpist with the National Youth Orchestra for five consecutive years.