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Recording Review – A Conte de Noel – A Christmas Story

Richard Todd, The Ottawa Citizen

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A Conte de Noel – A Christmas Story

Caroline Léonardelli, harp, Ottawa Bach Choir

Ottawa harpist Caroline Léonardelli joins forces with the female voices of Lisette Canton's Ottawa Bach Choir and vocal soloists Kathleen Radke, Julie Nesrallah and Dayna Lamothe, as well as percussionist J.S. Lacombe, in a program drawn from traditional and modern sources.

The centerpiece is Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*, op. 28. Originally intended for boys' voices and harp, it works even better when the singers are women and sing with the purity and lightness that the women of the OBC bring to the enterprise.

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*.

This CD is as good a stocking-stuffer as you'll find.