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Recording Review – Impressionisme – Para Arpa Harp Duo

Richard Todd, The Ottawa Citizen

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"Impressionisme: Four Stars"

Caroline Léonardelli, harp, Caroline Lizotte, harp

If there's anything nicer than a harp recital, it's a two-harp recital, as these Canadian Carolines demonstrate.

The program is evenly divided between little-known works written for two harps, and transcriptions of familiar works by Debussy, Granados and Ravel. The transcriptions are solid and imaginative and, if one sometimes misses the original settings, there are also times when the harp versions sound even better. (The addition of a gong in Ravel's Mother Goose Suite is delightful, if a little over the top.)

Ultimately, though, the listener is more likely to come back to this CD for the works expressly written for harp duo. Marcel Tournier's Four Preludes and Bernard Andrès's Parvis are very solid works, but Pierick Houdy's Pour Deux Harpes is undoubtedly the highlight of the collection.