

Sharlene Wallace / Contemporary harpist, composer, recording artist.

“ This is not just your harp music with a pretty face - it is **smoky, saucy and flirtatious**, serving up a delicious blend of drama and daydreams. “ Susan S.H., Ottawa, ON

“Contemporary Canadian harpist Sharlene Wallace melted the snows of winter at her recent performance in Vankleek Hill (Ontario) - March 6, 2005. **With her fiery playing and warm audience rapport**, Sharlene transported the listeners into her musical world “Beyond the Waves” - Sharlene’s latest CD.

Whether playing original works, such as Lost River, Dream Habanera and Wallace Bay; or interpreting the work of Alfredo Rolando Ortiz - Llano, El Rio or the searing Merengue Rojo - Sharlene displays a meticulous control that, while technically virtuosic, always manages to be **sensuous and organic**, all the while appearing as easy as child’s play.

A personal favourite, “Windows on the Sea”, shows Sharlene at her best. This work opens with a gorgeous celtic-inspired piece, written by Canadian wind player Craig Noseworthy, then soon moves into Sharlene’s playful South-American inspired rhythmic variations.

A highlight of the concert was Sharlene’s 3-movement “Island Mountain Suite”. This airy, verdant work is a gem - mixing elements of **celtic dreaminess, rhythmic complexity and beautiful, memorable melodic writing**. This was performed with fellow harpist Lucile Brais Hildesheim and brought the comment from many listeners that it was like hearing harps in stereo.

Fabulous bassist George Koller accompanied Sharlene on many of the pieces on the programme and brought an added dimension of rhythmic verve and harmonic profundity.

A fantastic, joyous musical adventure that ended far too soon.” Ian Hepburn, Vankleek Hill, ON

“When we **sold out** just through word-of-mouth and without even advertising the performance, I knew she was good. But the first time I heard Sharlene play I was in an adjoining room: The music was so intense, so vibrant, so amazing I thought there was a trio playing. **How can you do that with just one set of hands!?”**

Les Jones, Bookstore Cafe, Camden East

“Sharlene is ... one of our most important lever harp interpreters and composers. This CD (“Beyond the Waves”) has a general water theme, and the tunes, particularly the ones she has written, are connected to that theme in various ways. But these are not of the dreamy meandering style - they’re much more **exciting** than that. Many of the pieces feature the addition of one or more instrumentalists from a great “back-up” band of cello, accordion, violin, bass, percussion, and (my favourite) soprano sax. The accompanying is easily among the most tasteful (to my ears) and musical I’ve heard in a good while. **Sharlene’s playing is stellar: rhythmic, clean, (very clean), and precise; always going somewhere**, but never rushing. Really something to strive to emulate! Sharlene has composed 9 of the 14 tracks; the others include a couple of tunes by Alfredo Ortiz. Great artwork and design, too, further indications of Sharlene’s creativity and attention to detail.” Marilyn Rummel, British Columbia

“We’ve had some very successful workshops recently. Sharlene Wallace delighted a **packed room** with her Celtic harp expertise.” Ottawa Folklore Centre, Ottawa, ON

Sharlene Wallace

2005 Mozart Harp and Flute Concerto: "The andantino gave Miss Wallace more opportunity to demonstrate not only the instrument, but also her capacity to make it sing. Wallace's distinctive plucking carried each note throughout the theatre, sounding positively angelic. The melodic and well-known rondeau brought the piece to a glorious finale." Danny Gaisin, Oakville Today

"... so fluid and musical that it could take your breath away."

Harp Notes Ontario

"a good Celtic harpist is hard to find these days . . . luckily, Toronto based Sharlene Wallace has stepped up to bat . . . gregarious Wallace . . . is all about good vibes, as her lovely disc shows." NOW Magazine (November 1997), Toronto, ON

"a talented harpist and composer . . . a fine instrumental offering" SOCAN

"In concert she enchants, from the muscular rhythms of her South American songs, through the foot-tapping Celtic airs to her own haunting compositions. . . . the rhyme & the river highlights (Sharlene's) diverse musical talents and is one of those **leave-in-the-CD-carousel-for-months** gems. She is an exceptional harpist with an evocative and compelling style . . . warmth and light of the harpist's magic!" M.F. Keil, writer, Toronto, ON

"The harp has a healthy future in contemporary music thanks to performers like Toronto harp virtuoso Sharlene Wallace . . . who cuts an impressive path between Celtic, folk and Latin styles on her debut disc the rhyme & the river. Harp talents don't come much more highly recommended." Roger Levesque, Edmonton Journal

"the rhyme & the river . . . a fine collection of transcendent tunes which sparkle & resonate with Wallace's masterful technique." Jared Sizer, Soundscape Saskatoon

"the rhyme & the river has an ongoing motion that starts from the first song and flows through to the last . . . lush . . . shapely . . . warm" Sean Mahoney, Folk Harp Journal, USA

" . . . she plays with fortitude . . . steering the boat into different fantasy realms, stroking mythological landscapes with her tender touch, all with a unique South American soul that bonds the creative forces together." Darcy Losell-Cowall, eye for the future (1998) Toronto, ON

"Sharlene Wallace may not be a household name here in Canada; indeed, if she were a racing car driver with her accomplishments, her name would have been spread across every newspaper and news report . . . " Steve Fruitman, CIUT-FM University of Toronto Radio

"Wallace's sound is a combination of Jazz, Classical, New Age, Latin and Celtic folk. The pieces are visual, cerebral and full of rhythms ... Sharlene's playing generates a sense of profound romance". Teresinha Costa, eye for the future, Toronto, ON

"soulful, emotional performances" The Multicultural Heritage Centre, Stony Plain, Alberta

"an accomplished, innovative harpist . . . impresses with the intensity of her playing . . . a personal style that is at once rhythmic, ethereal and slightly exotic." Don Butler, The Ottawa Citizen

" . . . so much intensity and musical depth that she took us away to another world." G. Davies, International Folk Harp Journal