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The French Review: Couleurs et parfums

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REVIEW: Couleurs et parfums: Apprendre le français grâce à l'héritage de Carole Fredericks

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CDF Music Legacy and Tralco Educational Services, Inc. *Couleurs et parfums*

Apprendre le français grâce à l'héritage de Carole Fredericks. Hamilton, ON: Tralco, 2005. Music CD. Activity Book: 52 pp. ISBN: 1-55409-14308. \$49.95 U.S.

Couleurs et parfums is the delightful follow-up to *Tant qu'elle chante, elle vit*. As in the original program, the goals of the sequel are to preserve the memory of Carole Fredericks, to promote her musical legacy, to use her life to inspire young people to explore France and Francophone countries, and to encourage students to learn French.

Those familiar with the *Tant qu'elle chante* program know how the dynamic personality of Fredericks comes through on the music video and how this special pedagogical tool integrates pop-rock music and music videos into an educational language format. Those new to the music of Fredericks can visit www.tralco.com and www.carolefredericksfoundation.org to view online video clips and can visit www.cdfmusiclegacy.com to learn that in 1979, at the age of twenty-seven and not knowing a word of French, she emigrated to France. For twenty-two years, Fredericks collaborated with a multitude of musicians, most notably Jean-Jacques Goldman and Michael Jones. She died tragically of a heart attack in 2001 in Dakar, Senegal and is buried in Montmartre Cemetery.

Couleurs et parfums is the evolution of Fredericks coming into her own as an artist. The curriculum unit has an eleven-song power-packed CD of dance tunes, pop-rock, rap and R&B coupled with an activity book that includes Fredericks' biography, lyrics for each song, "étude de vocabulaire" (targets the trickier terms), "exercices de vocabulaire" (students apply the songs' vocabulary in other contexts), "interprétations" (students explore each song's meaning and discuss their ideas), and "projets et présentations" (designed to develop students' creativity, curiosity, and appreciation of the richness of the French language). Fredericks' sister, Connie Fredericks-Malone, hits the nail on the head when she states: "Un grand merci to John Beaver (activity book author) for creating inspired lessons contained herein. His fresh approach to the activities and exciting exercises promise teachers and students a fascinating exploration of each song." (5)

The eleven songs on the CD are: *Qu'est-ce qui t'amène, J'ai le sang blues, Kaai Djallemma, Respire, Le prix à payer, Mighty Love, Au bout de mes rêves, Ecope, Personne ne saurait, Veille* and *Tu es là*. All songs resonate with Fredericks' vibrant personality. Beaver advises:

Certaines chansons, comme *Tu es là, Personne ne saurait* et *Au bout de mes rêves* sont plus faciles d'accès que les autres, et vous pourriez les présenter telles quelles, sans introduction [...]. En ce qui concerne les autres chansons, ce serait préférable, à mon avis, d'étudier le vocabulaire avant de les écouter, afin d'en faciliter la compréhension. (7)

Upon reading Beaver's warning about *Kaai Djallemma* being "un cas particulier," I immediately went to that section of the activity book. *Kaai Djallemma* is a Wolof adaptation of Cyndi Lauper's *Time After Time* and lyrics are in English and Wolof. Beaver thus provides two interpretation activities that direct student to compare and contrast *Kaai Djallemma* with Fredericks' other songs. As an added bonus, supplemental activities created for a 2006 NECTFL session are available upon request by e-mail at <cfm@cdfmusiclegacy.com>.

This program is targeted for students who are able to manage the more complex vocabulary and grammatical structures presented in Fredericks' music. However, it is imperative to remember that these aforementioned structures are present in a natural context and that her music will truly motivate students as they learn that she not only embraced the culture and language of France but was also embraced by the French people.