

**Wild Women Unite for the Cure**  
**Fri. Nov. 21 • 8 pm • Regent Theatre • Arlington**

Three groups of wild women join together  
for one cause: breast cancer research

"Wild Woman of the Harp," Deborah Henson-Conant, "Team Wild Women" Breast Cancer walk training team and "Wild Women Outfitters" retail store have teamed up with the Regent Theatre to try to raise more than \$10,000 for breast cancer research in one evening concert Nov. 21st in Arlington.

Plans for Henson-Conant's annual Birthday Bash Concert at the Regent Theatre on Sat. Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> were already in full swing, when a chance meeting on the Minuteman Bike Path led her to collaborate with the other "Wild Women", adding a Benefit concert the night before her annual concert. To read more about this chance meeting and its happy consequences, read on or go to: [http://www.hipharp.com/wildwomen\\_story.html](http://www.hipharp.com/wildwomen_story.html)

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For a separate release about Deborah's Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Birthday Bash Concert, see the Publicity section of [www.HipHarp.com](http://www.HipHarp.com).

For basic concert info for both shows on the web:  
[http://www.hipharp.com/wildw\\_bbash.html](http://www.hipharp.com/wildw_bbash.html)

For more info on the artist, the cause, the fundraisers, and the sponsoring organizations, see the following pages of this release, go to: [www.HipHarp.com](http://www.HipHarp.com) or request more info from:  
[info@HipHarp.com](mailto:info@HipHarp.com) / (781) 483-3556



**WHO:** Deborah Henson-Conant

**WHAT & WHEN:**

- **Benefit Concert for Breast Cancer Research** – Fri. Nov. 21, 8pm
- **Annual Birthday Bash Concert** – Sat. Nov. 22, 8pm

**WHERE:** Regent Theatre – Arlington, MA

**HOW MUCH:**

- Fri 11/21 \$30
- Sat 11/22 \$22.50 (\$25 day of show)

**TICKETS/INFO:**

- **Regent Theatre Box Office:**

[www.regenttheatre.com](http://www.regenttheatre.com)

Phone: (781) 646-4849

- **HipHarp.com Office:**

[www.HipHarp.com](http://www.HipHarp.com)

(888) DEB STUF / (781) 483-3986

**Tickets for the Fri. Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> show also available at:**

- **Wild Women Outfitters:**

[www.WildWomenOutfitters.com](http://www.WildWomenOutfitters.com)

Phone: 781-641-5776

**HI-RESOLUTION PHOTOS ONLINE:**

[www.HipHarp.com](http://www.HipHarp.com) - go to "Publicity" page

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## **HOW THE “WILD WOMEN UNITE FOR THE CURE” CONCERT HAPPENED:**

OK, so you're on a Sunday morning training walk with your Walk-for-the-Cure fundraising team, and suddenly a handful of colorful braids jogs by you. "Hey," you yell out, "I know those braids! They belong to that hip-harpist, Deborah Henson-Conant!" Deborah stops to chat for a minute and then she jogs on.

As Deborah runs up the path, one of the other walkers starts talking about Deborah's performances and how fabulous they are - and then she starts ribbing you: "So why don't you run up there and ask her to do a benefit concert for us?"

That's exactly what happened to Lynn Ostberg on Oct. 25, 2003, and while Lynn didn't quite have the -- uh -- ovaries -- at that very moment to run up to Deborah, she did write an email later that night, asking if Deborah would ever consider doing a small fundraiser for the Team Wild Women Outfitters walk-for-the-cure team.

When Lynn got home from work on Monday night, there was a return email from Deborah. A little fundraiser isn't really her style, she said, but how about a BIG fundraiser. In fact, how about a BIG fundraiser REALLY SOON?

Turns out, Deborah is performing her annual Birthday Bash Concert Nov. 22nd. Normally the theater's completely booked this time of year but she just learned that the show on Nov. 21st was postponed as of three days ago so the theatre was, miraculously, free that night. "So," said Deborah in her email, "if you can get 450 people to come to a show in about three weeks, then together we could raise more than ten thousand dollars for this cause."

At first Lynn wasn't sure. Her team is still growing (only 25 people right now) and each would have to commit to getting nearly 20 people to the show. On the other hand ... what an opportunity ... what an adventure ... and what a great goal!

The next few days were a whirlwind of activity. Lynn and her team co-captain, Karen Rudnick, asked if their national organizations could give them support on this project and got a resounding YES! Then Lynn & Karen told their team sponsor, "Wild Women Outfitters", about the idea and "Wild Women" offered to underwrite radio time to advertise the concert, to oversee the ticket sales and to email their sizable mailing list.

It turned into a modern-day "Hey, I have a barn and Lulu has a guitar and Benjy has his uncle's old vaudeville costumes -- let's put on a show and raise money to pay the mortgage on the clubhouse!"

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**WHO ARE THESE WILD WOMEN?** (also see [http://www.hipharp.com/wildwomen\\_story.html](http://www.hipharp.com/wildwomen_story.html))

**TEAM WILD WOMEN OUTFITTERS** is a team of inspired women, training together to participate in both the Avon 2-day and the Susan G. Komen 3-day walk-for-the-cure fundraising walks. Bypassing the politics of "which walk should we support," Team Wild Women Outfitters decided to support BOTH walks and to split the proceeds of the concert 50/50 between the two organizations.

**WILD WOMEN OUTFITTERS** is a far-from-average retail store in Arlington, specializing in clothing, gear and workshops aimed at empowering women through sports on every level of ability. The store is co-owned by sisters Lisa and Terry Austin. Their personal mission is to inspire women to live their lives more fully, and both their store and the teams they support are part of fulfilling that mission. They long ago decided to focus their philanthropic energy on the Breast Cancer Cause, especially in the Boston area -- and, among other things, they provide clinics, support, and a 'home' to the Team Wild Women Outfitters. ([www.WildWomenOutfitters.com](http://www.WildWomenOutfitters.com))

**WILD WOMAN OF THE HARP**, Deborah Henson-Conant, was given that title by veteran band-leader Doc Severinsen. Deborah presents a musical one-woman-show and plays the harp – the electric harp – the solid-body, electric strap-on harp. Her stage manner is half-virtuosic-showman and half-intimate-chat. Her songs range from intricate love songs, through playful interaction with the audience to ferocious electric-harp workouts. As part of the "Wild Women Unite..." weekend, Deborah's also releasing the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of her "Artist's Proof" CD. For more info on Deborah, see attached bio, or go to [www.HipHarp.com](http://www.HipHarp.com).

**DEBBIE DORSEY**, filmmaker and standup comic, will make a special guest appearance at this event. Dorsey, herself a cancer survivor, felt there was only one thing to do after her treatment: standup comedy. As one of the women in PBS's critically acclaimed film, "No Hair Day," Dorsey offers a unique and humorous look at the world of a middle aged woman battling breast cancer.

**THE REGENT THEATRE** is located in Arlington Center, only one block from the Minuteman Bike Path, where thousands of walkers in the 'Avon Walk for Breast Cancer' and 'Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer 3-Day' will be nearing the ends of their fundraising walks in 2004. The Regent is proud to be Deborah Henson-Conant's "home base theatre" and happy to help make a difference for this cause.

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## THE CAUSE

### HOW MUCH OF THE TICKET MONEY GOES TO THE CAUSE?

Tickets are \$30 each. \$27 of every ticket sold goes to the Team Wild Women to be split between the Avon Foundation & Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation – and \$3 goes to offset theater costs.

If people want to pay more, say, \$50 for the ticket, the theater still takes just \$3, which means that \$47 goes to the cancer-research-funds. For those who want to donate, but can't come to the concert, checks can be made out for any amount to "Breast Cancer Walk" and sent to Karen Rudnick, 39 Sanderson Rd., Lexington, MA.

### WHICH ORGANIZATIONS ACTUALLY GET THE MONEY, AND WHAT DO THEY DO WITH IT?

Both the Avon Foundation and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation provide research grants, direct services (many here in the Boston area) as well as information to raise awareness of breast cancer. The Avon Foundation, in particular, focuses on medically underserved women for their mammography, translation, and case work funding. For more info on these organizations:

**Susan G. Komen:** [Breast Cancer 3-day \(\[www.The3Day.org\]\(http://www.The3Day.org\)\)](http://www.The3Day.org)

**Avon:** [Avon Walk for Breast Cancer \(\[www.avonwalk.org\]\(http://www.avonwalk.org\)\)](http://www.avonwalk.org)

Each organization has an annual fundraising walk in Boston. For those who'd like to know more about these fundraising walks, we've provided more information at [www.hipharp.com/wildwomen\\_story.html](http://www.hipharp.com/wildwomen_story.html).

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## **Deborah Henson-Conant – BRIEF ARTIST BIO**

**BRIEF ARTIST BIO** - Harpist, singer, composer, entertainer, comedian – find one person who embodies them all and you begin to describe Deborah Henson-Conant on stage. She's played the Edinburgh Fringe festival with her one-woman show "HipHarp Fantasies," toured the country with the Boston Pops, opened for Ray Charles at Tanglewood and been featured on CBS, NBC, PBS and NPR. Henson-Conant, live on stage, presents her own style of musical theater: stories with music, and virtuosic harp playing in genres from blues to flamenco. With her solid-body, electric harp strapped on her back and wailing the Blues, Henson-Conant creates a whole new image of the Troubadour Harpist.

**CAREER OVERVIEW** – Henson-Conant hit the jazz charts in the late 80's with her three albums on the GRP label. Since then she's established her own independent record label and released a dozen albums from straight-ahead jazz to Celtic, blues, folk-pop and spoken word. She's jammed off-stage and on with the likes of Steven Tyler, Rufus Reid, Keith Lockhart, Marvin Hamlisch and Gary Larsen (yes, that Gary Larsen). She composes for full orchestra - or solo harp and voice - and has performed in symphony halls, rock clubs and on festival stages throughout the US and Europe. She's lectured at the Paris Conservatory, and received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Massachusetts Artists Fellowship, and "Meet the Composer." She's a "cross-genre" artist whose performances rely on musical, theatrical content, rather than on one style of music.

**TOURING** - Deborah Henson-Conant makes her home in the Boston area, but most of the time she's on tour out-of-state, where she solos with symphonies or performs her one-woman-shows at theaters and festivals (full tour schedule at [www.HipHarp.com](http://www.HipHarp.com)).

***"Calling Henson-Conant a harpist is like calling Joe DiMaggio a guy with a bat. Technically it's correct, but you're just scratching the surface."*** - Grand Rapids Press

***"Imagine the talented love-child of André Previn and Lucille Ball."*** – Scott Simon, NPR