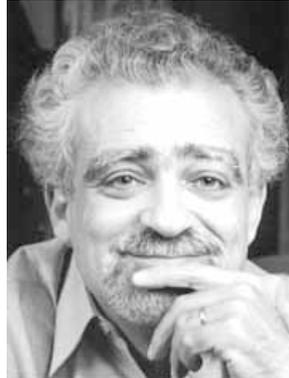




**Deborah Henson-Conant**



**Tony Kahn**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Run Through Sept. 26, 2006**

**HI-RES PHOTOS, Video & Audio clips available at:**

[www.HipHarp.com](http://www.HipHarp.com) - Publicity Page

**CONTACT INFO:** Elisabeth Phinney  
[info@HipHarp.com](mailto:info@HipHarp.com) / 781-483-3556

## **Inviting Invention** Performance Exploration Series Week Two: " 'Morning Stories' Faces the Music"

**WHO:** Performer/Composer Deborah Henson-Conant  
Special Guest Tony Kahn, Radio Producer & Director of WGBH's "Morning Stories"  
Moderator Jonathan Wyner (series producer)

**WHAT:** Inviting Invention – A Performance Exploration Series at the Regent Theatre  
Six Collaborative Explorations crossing Styles, Genres and Disciplines  
Week Two: " 'Morning Stories' Faces the Music" with special guest Tony Kahn

**WHEN:** Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2006 – 7:30 PM

**WHERE:** Regent Theatre - 7 Medford St - Arlington Center

**PRICE:** \$16 Adults/ \$12 Students / Kids 8-12 \$8 - check [www.HipHarp.com](http://www.HipHarp.com) for discounts

**TIX:** [www.RegentTheatre.com](http://www.RegentTheatre.com) / 781-646-4849 / Box Office - 7 Medford St - Arlington

**WHAT IS THE "INVITING INVENTION" SERIES?** Weekly performance exploration series with performer/composer Deborah Henson-Conant and special guests from the fields of music, theater, dance, philosophy, writing, literature, sports, medicine, journalism ... and everything else! The show combines performance, interview, and collaboration between host Deborah Henson-Conant and guests. Through the creative exploration of diverse minds, the audience is invited into the worlds of INVENTION (individual creativity) and ALCHEMY (creative minds exploring together). Example: How is being a nuclear physicist *like* being a musician, and *how can the two possibly create something together* — right now — in front of an audience?

**SHOW FORMAT: Each show is in 3 segments, with a brief intermission.**

- 1. Presentation:** Henson-Conant and her guest briefly present their individual work.
- 2. Engaging the Observer:** guest and host describe what they observed of each other's work and create a proposition for a collaborative experiment.
- 3. Courting the Unknown:** guest and host perform a spontaneous collaboration based on the proposition they created. If time permits, audience is invited for a Q & A.

**FOR MORE INFO** about the series or DHC: [www.HipHarp.com](http://www.HipHarp.com) or [www.InventionAndAlchemy.com](http://www.InventionAndAlchemy.com)

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## Why is this Series being Developed?

**INSPIRATION #1:** In 2004 Deborah Henson-Conant and producer Jonathan Wyner received a grant to produce a DVD based on Henson-Conant's original work with symphony orchestras. During the two-year production process, they became fascinated with the interplay between individual creativity ("Invention") and the seemingly magical transformation of that invention through collaborative performances ("Alchemy"). They called the DVD "Invention & Alchemy" and decided to continue exploring the concept.

**INSPIRATION #2:** In 2005 Henson-Conant was invited to participate in the Boston Globe's "Ideas Conference," a two-day event featuring 20-minute mini-lectures by an elite group of creative minds from diverse fields. She was profoundly inspired by the series and the impact of such diverse ideas on her own work. "The Ideas Conference expanded my idea of collaborative performance to include cross-discipline collaborators as diverse as physicists, entrepreneurs, farmers or doctors. I began to wonder why musicians only invite other *musicians* as 'opening acts' or special guests. Why not collaborate on stage with people who can present concepts to put my work into a much broader context -- for both me and the audience. My performances aren't "about the music" – the ideas are what's important, and music is just one way to explore those ideas."

The "Inviting Invention" Exploration Series is an opportunity to allow Henson-Conant and other creative minds a chance to invent something new and imperfect in front of a live audience, yet within the safety net of performance exploration.

"We see this initial 6-week series as an experiment," says producer Jonathan Wyner. "Our long-term plan is to develop an ongoing series, to connect with a video production company, film the shows, edit them, podcast them and then use them as a pilot for a broadcast series. This six-weeks series is the first experiment. At this point everything is open from the show's format to the series' name. This initial series is a chance for people to be a part of experimentation at its inception!"

## Deborah Henson-Conant – Brief Bio

Composer, performer, singer, songwriter, author, cartoonist, entertainer, comedian, electric harpist – mix those together and you can just begin to describe Deborah Henson-Conant. From the Edinburgh Fringe Festival to Boston's Symphony Hall, she presents shows that mix theatre, humor and music. She's toured as a soloist with the Boston Pops, opened for Ray Charles at Tanglewood, premiered her compositions with symphonies throughout the US, lectured at the Paris Conservatory, received grants from the NEA and "Meet the Composer". She's been featured on NBC, CBS, and CNN, and PBS. Her recently released DVD, "Invention & Alchemy," features her one-woman show with 80-piece orchestra. ([www.HipHarp.com](http://www.HipHarp.com))

## Jonathan Wyner, Producer/Moderator – Brief Bio

Producer, mastering engineer, performer and coach, Wyner has mastered more than 4000 CD's during the last 21 years spanning every musical genre from Opera to HipHop. His credits range from the extremely well known (James Taylor, David Bowie, Aerosmith, Kiri Te Kanawa), to the more idiosyncratic and independent artists/labels. He produced of Henson-Conant's recent "Invention & Alchemy" DVD. ([www.M-Works.com](http://www.M-Works.com))

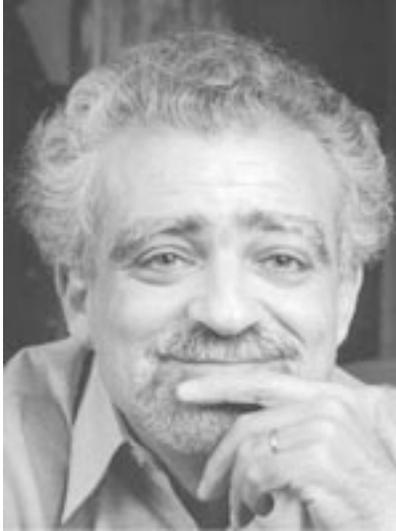
## Tony Kahn, Guest – Brief Bio

Public radio veteran Tony Kahn directs and produces WGBH's **Morning Stories**, public radio's first podcast. Making people more aware of the pleasures of podcasting is one of Kahn's current missions. His "Morning Stories" are told by people in our community: personal stories of struggle and victory, of love and loss, of chance meetings and odd occurrences. **(see next page for full bio)**

**For upcoming special guests to "Inviting Invention" visit the Tour Schedule at [HipHarp.com](http://HipHarp.com)  
For more info visit [www.HipHarp.com](http://www.HipHarp.com) or contact: [info@HipHarp.com](mailto:info@HipHarp.com) / 781-483-3556**

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## "Inviting Invention" - Guest Bio

### Tony Kahn

An award-winning radio host and producer, Tony Kahn is currently the producer/director of WGBH Radio's *Morning Stories* program, public radio's first podcast.

Tony Kahn joins "Inviting Invention" for the second of six shows in a series of weekly Performance Explorations at :  
The Regent Theatre  
Tue. Sept. 26th at 7:30 pm.

Kahn has written, produced, narrated and hosted more than 50 radio and television programs and series for the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), National Public Radio (NPR), Nickelodeon, A&E, Monitor Radio, and Boston television stations WGBH and WCVB. In addition to having served as the original host of PRI's *The World*—public radio's global news program—Kahn is a regular panelist on WGBH/NPR's weekly witty word game show, *Says You!* He has also been a regular commentator for Public Radio International's *Marketplace* and NPR's *Morning Edition*.

Kahn's broadcast work has received 12 New England Emmys, a National Emmy nomination, the Edward R. Murrow Award for Feature Reporting, six Gold Medals of the New York International Festival, three Gabriel Awards, an Ohio State Award, the A.I.R. Radio Award for Radio Interviewing, and the Grand Award for Radio Drama from the New York International Festival. Several of his documentaries have been screened at film festivals throughout the US; other works, including three plays and five screenplays, have received notable recognition. Kahn's acclaimed public radio series, *Blacklisted*, starring Ron Leibman, Eli Wallach, Stockard Channing chronicled the experiences of his father, Hollywood screenwriter Gordon Kahn, who was blacklisted during the McCarthy era.

Most recently, Kahn has been recognized as one of the "Twelve Pioneers of Podcasting" for placing public radio in the vanguard of the new media revolution with the 2004 launch of his *Morning Stories* podcast—public radio's first podcast. Since its debut, *Morning Stories* has built a world wide audience and is heard regularly in over 150 countries.

Prior to his work in broadcasting, Kahn was a Russian scholar and translator and published four books of translations of Russian poetry, biography and fiction. He graduated Magna cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Harvard University and holds a Master's Degree in Slavic Studies from Columbia University.

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