

		FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Run Through Oct. 24, 2006
Deborah Henson-Conant "...reshaping the serenely Olympian harp into a jazz instrument by warping it closer to the blues" New York Times	Eugene Friesen "I really love the ideas you present, and the creative ways you have stretched the limits of the cello" Yo-Yo Ma	HI-RES PHOTOS, Video & Audio clips available at: www.HipHarp.com - Publicity Page
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"Inviting Invention" Performance Exploration Series Week Six: "Exploding String Theory"

WHO: Performer/Composer Deborah Henson-Conant
Special Guest Eugene Friesen, Composer/Performer/Cellist
Moderator/Producer Jonathan Wyner

WHAT: Inviting Invention – A Performance Exploration Series
Six Collaborative Explorations crossing Styles, Genres and Disciplines

WHEN: Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2006 – 7:30 PM

WHERE: Regent Theatre - 7 Medford St - Arlington Center

PRICE: All Tix \$8 - check www.HipHarp.com for discounts

TIX: www.RegentTheatre.com / 781-646-4849 / Box Office - 7 Medford St - Arlington

WHAT IS THE "INVITING INVENTION" SERIES? It's a six-week series of performance explorations with performer/composer Deborah Henson-Conant and special guests from diverse fields from music to journalism. Each show combines performance, interview and collaboration between host and guests, inviting the audience into the worlds of invention and the chemistry of creative collaboration. Example: How is being a mime *like* being a musician, and *how can the two create something new together* — right now — in front of an audience?

THIS WEEK'S SHOW: Eugene Friesen plays cello. Deborah Henson-Conant plays the harp. Both have exploded the stereotypes of their instruments. How did each do this? And why? Friesen and Henson-Conant met for the first and only time in Pori, Finland a dozen years ago; both brought there to premiere a new work by Finnish composer Heikki Sarmanto. What will they create when they meet for the second time - on the stage at the Regent Oct. 24th?

FOR MORE INFO about the series or DHC: www.HipHarp.com or www.InventionAndAlchemy.com

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Why is this Series being Developed?

Composer/Performer Deborah Henson-Conant and Producer Jonathan Wyner spent the last two years completely immersed in a project that had to be perfect. "We were given a major private grant to produce a broadcast-quality DVD of my original music with full symphony orchestra," says Henson-Conant. "The chance to create a DVD of my own work at the highest level of professional production was a dream come true, but it was also extremely stressful. Everything had to be perfect. We had a huge film crew, high-definition film equipment, an orchestra of 80 musicians. We were working with an Emmy-Award-Winning director, a Grammy-Winning engineer, one of the most creative conductors in the US. Everything was riding on our work."

"It was the single most intense two years of my life. I needed something to refill my creative well. So Jonathan and I decided to try out an idea I'd had several years ago: a performance series that allows us to explore creative collaboration with diverse guests – not just other musicians, but dancers, journalists, actors and eventually even scientists, doctors."

"We envisioned the 'Inviting Invention' Exploration Series as an opportunity to allow diverse creative minds a chance to invent something new and imperfect in front of a live audience, yet within the safety net of exploration. Emphasis on the idea of 'imperfect' and on the spirit of experimentation and collaboration. It also gives me a chance to simply 'play' on stage with people I've wanted to work with for years – and after the intensity of the last two years, I just really need to play – in every sense of the word!"

"The series so far has been great fun," says producer and moderator Jonathan Wyner. "In the first half of each show, Henson-Conant and her guest present their solo work. In the second half, they embark on a collaborative experiment. If time permits, the audience is invited for a Q & A. It has given audiences a chance to interact with Deborah and her guests in a way that just isn't possible with audiences of 2000, like we had when we filmed the DVD. We're also video-taping each show with the thought of podcasting it later on, and eventually using it as a demo or pilot for a longer ongoing series."

Deborah Henson-Conant – Brief Bio

"...reshaping the serenely Olympian harp into a jazz instrument by warping it closer to the blues" **New York Times**

Deborah Henson-Conant is known for her renegade performances that mix theatre, music and humor, and for revolutionizing the elite concert harp into an electric strap-on 31-string hybrid she plays in genres from blues to flamenco. 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, gotten rave reviews for her one-woman show at the Edinburgh Fringe, and received grants from the NEA and "Meet the Composer". She's been featured on NBC, CBS, CNN, and PBS. Her recently released DVD, "Invention & Alchemy," features her one-woman show with 80-piece orchestra. (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 Henson-Conant's recent "Invention & Alchemy" DVD. (www.M-Works.com)

See Page 3 for Guest Bio • Upcoming Guests at HipHarp.com Tour Schedule

More info: www.HipHarp.com or email info@HipHarp.com / phone 781-483-3556

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"Inviting Invention" - Guest Bio

Eugene Friesen, Performer/Composer/Cellist

Eugene Friesen joins "Inviting Invention" host Deborah Henson-Conant for the sixth in a series of weekly Performance Explorations:

**Tue. Oct. 24 at 7:30 pm
Regent Thtr • Arlington, MA**

For ticket & other info, see pg. 1

EUGENE FRIESEN, performing artist/composer

Eugene Friesen is at the forefront of a new generation of musicians versed in classical, popular and world music. A graduate of the Yale School of Music, he is active as a performer, composer, teacher and recording artist.

Friesen's gift for the responsive flow of improvisatory music has been featured in concerts all over the world with the [Paul Winter Consort](#), Trio Globo, and with poets Yevgeny Yevtushenko and Coleman Barks. He has performed as a soloist at the International Cello Festival in Manchester, England; Rencontres d'Ensembles de Violoncelles in Beauvais, France; and at the World Cello Congress in Baltimore, Maryland.

His compositional credits include four albums of original music: In The Shade Of Angels, New Friend, Arms Around You and The Song of Rivers; Grasslands, a symphony premiered on the Kansas prairie in 1997; Earth Requiem: Stories of Hope, an oratorio first performed in 1991; The Brementown Musicians with Bob Hoskins for Rabbit Ears Productions in 1992; Sabbaths, settings of poems by Wendell Berry premiered in Vermont in 1999; and numerous scores for documentary films. Eugene's music can also be heard on the recordings of Trio Globo, which he founded in 1992 with Howard Levy and Glen Velez.

Friesen was awarded a Grammy award as a member of the [Paul Winter Consort](#) for the 1994 album Spanish Angel and was the 1999 recipient of grants from the Lila Wallace/Reader's Digest Fund and Continental Harmony to compose a symphonic setting of Carl Sandburg's PRAIRIE, which was premiered in June of 2001 in Arkansas City, Kansas.

CelloMan, his one-man show for young audiences, features a wide variety of music on solo cello: classical, jazz, blues and rock. Created in collaboration with maskmaker/choreographer Robert Faust, CelloMan has been performed widely in the United States. The CelloMan video was released in 1999.

Eugene Friesen is on the faculty of the Berklee College of Music in Boston. He lives in Vermont with his wife, Wendy, and children.

For upcoming special guests to "Inviting Invention" visit the Tour Schedule at HipHarp.com

For more info visit www.HipHarp.com or contact: info@HipHarp.com / 781-483-3556

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