

GRAMMY Nomination for "Best Classical Crossover Album" "INVENTION & ALCHEMY"

Deborah Henson-Conant • Grand Rapids Symphony • David Lockington, Conductor



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HI-RES PHOTOS: Hi-res photos of the artist and album artwork available for download at: www.HipHarp.com Publicity Page

AUDIO & VIDEO CLIPS, WHO'S WHO, etc.:
www.InventionAndAlchemy.com

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Electric Strap-On Harp + Symphony + Multicolor Dreadlocks = Grammy Nomination for "Best Classical Crossover Album"

Imagine this: a woman with blue-and-violet dreadlocks straps on a 31-string electric guitar, steps in front of a symphony orchestra and launches into a Flamenco-style Samba.

That's how the Grammy-nominated "Invention & Alchemy" begins. Only the 31-string guitar is really an electric harp and the woman in dreads is Deborah Henson-Conant, who composed and orchestrated every note of this feature-length suite of musical short stories for 80-piece orchestra, and is well on her way to reigniting the symphony orchestra the way she reignited her own unlikely instrument, the harp.

Henson-Conant landed on the jazz charts in the late 80's when she was signed by the GRP Jazz label and released three jazz-fusion albums featuring electric harp. By the mid-90's she was using jazz and classical structures to write fully orchestrated symphonic pieces featuring electric harp and voice, touring as a soloist with the Boston Pops, opening for Ray Charles at Tanglewood, and being featured on shows like CBS "Sunday Morning" and NPR's "Weekend Edition."

Expanding the standard "Symphony Pops" format, which often limits the soloist to a small segment of the program, Henson-Conant develops full-length orchestral shows that integrate soloist and orchestra, with Henson-Conant in the role of soloist, storyteller and tour guide to the imagination.

"Invention & Alchemy" brings the audience right onto the stage for one of those evenings. Shot in hi-definition by director Bob Comiskey and recorded by Grammy-winning audio engineer Tom Bates, "Invention & Alchemy" is a full-length feature presentation packed with stories and songs, plus almost 50 minutes of behind-the-scenes features. The Grammy Nominated companion CD was created as audio music theatre – a cross between soundtrack and radio play – and received a 2007 Grammy Nomination for "Best Classical Crossover Album."

Project site: InventionAndAlchemy.com (Audio & video clips, photo gallery, Who's Who, etc.)

Artist site: HipHarp.com (hi-res photos, bio, etc)