

ASO to Host ‘Hip Harpist’ Deborah Henson-Conant



Downloadable, print-quality publicity photos available on our website: www.HipHarp.com. Credit this illustration: Friday

Who • What • When • Where

Alabama Symphony

With special guest

Deborah Henson-Conant

And Christopher Confessore, Conductor

Presents: “Hip Harp Fantasies”

Saturday, 1/18, 8:00 PM

BJCC Concert Hall

Tickets: \$30-\$65; group rates and student ‘rush’ rates available

**Tix/Info: 205-251-7727 or
www.AlabamaSymphony.org**

Deborah Henson-Conant plays the harp – the electric harp - the solid-body electric strap-on harp - and she’ll join the Alabama Symphony onstage Saturday, January 18th at 8:00. The evening will feature Henson-Conant’s ‘Hip Harp Fantasies’: a symphony pops show featuring musical styles from driving samba to sultry blues, along with well-known favorites like “Take Five” and “The Wizard of Oz.”

Henson-Conant has been called everything from “the talented love child of Andre Previn and Lucille Ball” (Scott Simon, *NPR*) to “a combination of Leonard Bernstein, Steven Tyler and Xena the Warrior Princess” (*The Boston Globe*). She’s been compared to Eddie Van Halen, Jimi Hendrix, Carly Simon, Astor Piazzolla and ... yes, Elvis.

Henson-Conant is also known for her on-stage humor and an ability to interact with an audience of thousands as though they were sitting together in her living room. A “triple-threat” composer, arranger and performer, Henson-Conant likes to lead unlikely members of the orchestra into unconventional solo forays – so don’t be surprised if she invites the orchestral harpist and the snare drummer to join her in a Celtic Jig and Reel, or plays a duet with the timpanist – or the tuba!

This performance is sponsored by The Birmingham News/Birmingham Post Herald. Tickets are \$30 - \$65, and can be purchased through the ASO box office at (205) 251-7727 or AlabamaSymphony.org

For more information, bios, CD’s, or to schedule an interview with the artist, contact Nora Sawyer at (781) 483-3556, email info@hipharp.com, or visit Deborah’s website: www.HipHarp.com/publicity.html for downloadable, print-quality photos, bios, and more.

(more)

WHO IS DEBORAH HENSON-CONANT and WHAT IS SHE DOING TO THAT HARP!? (A Short Biography)

Deborah Henson-Conant remains the “wild woman of the harp,” changing the way the world sees this ancient “instrument of the angels.” Deborah calls her music “cross-genre” – jazz-pop-comedy-folk-blues-flamenco-Celtic – and she is as much an entertainer

**“She may look
like an angel, but
she plays
devilishly well.”**

-Joan Rivers

as a musician. She performs in symphony halls with major orchestras and plays intimate shows in jazz clubs and theaters internationally. She sings, plays the electric harp, “tells tall tales with the ease of a stand-up comic,” (Plain Dealer, Cleveland) and epitomizes the theme of her Web site address: HipHarp.com.

Deborah sings and plays the harp, tells stories and composes symphonic music that runs the gamut from bombastic to tender. She has been described as “the talented love-child of André Previn and Lucille Ball” (NPR). Her playing ranges from raucous to delicate and her performances blur the line between musical performance and theatrical event.

Deborah plays an electric harp designed for her by French harp builder Joel Garnier. This solid-body, strap-on harp - which



looks like something from Star Trek - has a crystal pickup on each string, giving it the power of an electric guitar, with the technical range of a harp.

**“Melodic
warmth,
harmonic
sophistication
and the ability
to swing her
head off...”**
*The Glasgow
Herald*

Deborah Henson-Conant has toured with the Boston Pops, opened for Ray Charles at Tanglewood, performed her one-woman show from Budapest to Boston, starred in the PBS special “Celtic Harpestry,” and has been featured on NBC, CBS, CNN, NPR, and hosted television shows for BET and BBC Affiliates.

**More background and bio material available online at:
www.HipHarp.com/publicity.html**