

## Who's Who of “Invention & Alchemy”

“Invention & Alchemy” is Deborah Henson-Conant’s new DVD & CD with the Grand Rapids Symphony and conductor David Lockington.

**RELEASE DATE:** May 10, 2006. Boston-Area Release Party Mother’s Day Weekend, May 12-14 at the Regent Theatre, Arlington, MA. For more info, visit [www.HipHarp.com](http://www.HipHarp.com).

### Creative Team:

**INVENTOR (COMPOSER / PERFORMER): Deborah Henson-Conant** - Harpist, singer, songwriter, composer, author, cartoonist, entertainer, comedian – mix those together and you can just begin to describe Deborah Henson-Conant. Using her voice, her creativity and her one-of-a-kind electric harp, Deborah Henson-Conant sculpts sound like others sculpt clay. Whether she’s tearing up the Edinburgh Fringe festival, touring with the Boston Pops, entertaining audiences with her one-woman music-theater-comedy show “Stand Up and Sing, Harp Lady”, or mesmerizing a theater filled with children at the Kennedy Center, Henson-Conant, live, on stage, is indescribable. She rocked onto the jazz charts in the late 80’s. Since then she’s established her own record label and released a dozen albums from straight-ahead jazz to Celtic, blues, folk-pop and spoken word. She’s jammed on stage, and off, with the likes of Steven Tyler, Bobby McFerrin, Rufus Reid, Keith Lockhart, and Marvin Hamlisch. She’s premiered her compositions with countless symphonies, lectured at the Paris Conservatory, and received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Massachusetts Artists Fellowship, and “Meet the Composer.” She’s been featured on NBC, CBS, and CNN, been a host on BET, and starred in the PBS Special “Celtic Harpestry.” Henson-Conant has revolutionized her instrument. She’s brought vibrant passion and individuality to its sound, and in the process was herself transformed. Her work is an exploration of possibilities – moving her audience out of the ordinary and into the extraordinary. “Invention & Alchemy,” Henson-Conant’s new music-theater DVD/CD of her original symphonic orchestrations will be released May, 2006.

**PRODUCER: Jonathan Wyner** has mastered and produced more than 5000 projects over the last 21 years spanning every musical idiom. He has been a recording engineer since 1983, a mastering engineer since 1985, and in 1991 he established M Works Studios. Wyner has worked a broad range of artists, ranging from the extremely well know (James Taylor, David Bowie, Aerosmith, Miles Davis) to the more esoteric and independent artists. He mastered the first interactive CD Game (Play It By Ear, Rykodisk), the longest CD (80:32 for Razormaid Records), and the first recorded opera (Madame Butterfly). Wyner is also a professor at Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA and is an elite marathon runner and coach.

**CONDUCTOR / CELLIST / ACTOR: David Lockington** is the music director of the Grand Rapids Symphony where he has energized audiences and musicians alike while reaching new heights of artistic excellence. Lockington has held music directorships of several orchestras, including the Long Island Philharmonic, New Mexico Symphony Orchestra, Cheyenne Symphony Orchestra, and Denver Young Artist’s Orchestra, and has been the assistant conductor to several others. He also founded and conducted the Academy in the Wilderness Chamber Orchestra. Lockington has guest conducted with symphonies in Europe, Asia, and across the United States.

## Technical Team:

**VIDEO DIRECTOR: Bob Comiskey** is best known for his work on the award-winning PBS children's show ZOOM. For which he received three Emmy nominations for Outstanding Directing in a Children's Series. Comiskey has directed over three dozen programs with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Boston Pops, collecting Emmy awards for his work along the way. He has done jazz, opera, and contemporary music, with other work ranging from The Boston Marathon to The Boston Ballet. When not staring at television monitors, Comiskey plays drums in a classic rock band.

**RECORDING & MIXING ENGINEER: Tom Bates** has been a record producer and recording engineer for over thirty years. He has recorded most of this country's major orchestras, many of the world's greatest classical soloists, virtually all of the world's great opera singers, a number of famous jazz performers, and a handful of pop stars (including Paul Simon, Bob Dylan, Stevie Wonder, Mark Knopfler, Dire Straits, The Pretenders, and Cyndi Lauper). Bates has been the audio director of Emmy winning television shows (including "Saturday Night Live", "Live From Lincoln Center", and "Live From The Met"), and Academy Award nominated movies (including Franco Zeffirelli's film production of "La Traviata"). His productions have won 8 Grammy awards.

**THE SPONSOR: Peter Wege** is Trustee of the Steelcase Foundation and President of the Wege Foundation. Mr. Wege is also the founder and Trustee of the Center for Environmental Study and the author of the environmental history book, "Economicolgy". He has served on the boards of several environmental, arts, and medical organizations and has received numerous awards for his achievements in those areas. In 2004, Mr. Wege initiated the "Healing Our Waters" agenda for Great Lakes restoration. Wege first saw Henson-Conant performing with the Grand Rapids Symphony in 1999. He came backstage after the show and said "What I saw out there, I want the whole world to see." Wege's subsequent support made this project possible.

**THE PRODUCTION COMPANY: Moody Street Pictures** is a Boston-based independent media company. Moody Street develops and co-develops feature films, television and music productions. The team has more than 30 years combined experience in development and production for television and film. Past projects have covered documentary, drama, music, industrials, commercials and other corporate media. Moody Street's award winning television content has aired on PBS, ABC, NBC, CNN, WGBH, Discovery, and the BBC.

## Technical Specs:

"Invention & Alchemy" was recorded over three nights of live performances in DeVos Hall (Grand Rapids Michigan) in front of a live audience of 6000+. Video was recorded in Hi Def using Sony's SRW-5000 HD CAM recorders at a resolution of 1080i. The recording facility was the "Premiere" truck from the CBC in Quebec. Mixing was done at M Works Studios using Logic Pro and Sonic Solutions in Stereo and 5.1 surround. Post-production editing was done at Moody Street Pictures via Final Cut Studio Pro HD. Concert lighting done by Real World Lighting Design.