

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - DHC & GRS: The DVD Project - May 8, 2005 - Dec 31, 2007
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Deborah Henson-Conant • The Grand Rapids Symphony • David Lockington, Conductor

The DVD Project

Including:
Surround-Sound DVD
2-year Int'l Tour
Live Concert
Sneak Preview
May 8, 2005
Arlington, MA

On Nov. 11, 2005, Boston-area composer/performer Deborah Henson-Conant and Grand Rapids Symphony conductor David Lockington will step onto stage together. Lockington will raise his baton, 75 musicians will take a deep breath ... and the cameras will roll. During the next three nights, they'll record Deborah's symphonic show in front of a live audience. Not just the music, but the full spectrum of her colorful, high-energy performance – the stories, the music, the sometimes-lush, sometimes-fiery orchestrations and the powerful vision of Henson-Conant sweeping across the stage with her electric, strapped-on harp.

This project, which includes the production of a surround-sound DVD and an international tour to support the recording, is being funded by a private grant from Peter M. Wege of the Wege Foundation.

THE TOUR: Once the CD/DVD is released, Henson-Conant will begin a 2-year tour, performing the recorded works live with symphonies and ensembles across the US and Europe.

BOSTON AREA SNEAK PREVIEW: On Sun. May 8th, 3pm at the Regent Theatre in Arlington, MA. Deborah Henson-Conant will preview music for the new project with members of the Boston Classical Orchestra, conducted by Steven Lipsitt. Tickets - \$22.50 - www.HipHarp.com / (888) DEB-STUF

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Henson-Conant belongs to a new breed of American composer/performers -- those who create their own orchestral repertoire and perform as orchestral soloists. In doing so, they connect audiences with symphonic performance in a way that was more common in the 18th and 19th centuries, heydays of composer/performer superstars like Mozart and Liszt.

As a performer, Henson-Conant is technically a harpist/vocalist. But forget the six-foot gold concert harp. Henson-Conant straps on her custom-built, solid-body electric harp and sweeps across the stage, singing in styles that mix Broadway and blues.

It was this performance style and Henson-Conant's chemistry with the Grand Rapids Symphony that led to the idea for this recording. After experiencing her first performance with the Grand Rapids Symphony in 1999, philanthropist Peter Wege approached Deborah and said, "This is something I want the whole world to see!" The DVD/CD project is the brainchild of Wege, Henson-Conant, Lockington, former orchestra president William Ryberg, and producer Jonathan Wyner.

Together, they envisioned this collaborative project as a way to bring Henson-Conant's music to life on disc and to chronicle her special relationship with the Grand Rapids Symphony. In so doing, their long-term mission is to champion the orchestra as a vibrant voice in modern society by creating and performing fresh, exciting and widely accessible new works and bringing them to an ever-wider audience.

For more information on this project and on Henson-Conant, visit www.HipHarp.com or contact Eugene Song at (781) 483-3556.

"THE DVD PROJECT" TIMELINE:

Deborah's symphonic DVD Project with the Grand Rapids Symphony spans nearly 3 years from inception to tour end. Below are some of the timeline details:

SUN. MAY 8, 2005 - SNEAK PREVIEW with members of the Boston Classical Orchestra

TUE. AUG. 2, 2005 - Reading Rehearsal with the GRS

NOV. 11-13, 2005 - PERFORMANCES & RECORDING

MAR. 2006 - CD/DVD RELEASE

MAR 2006- DEC 2007- INTERNATIONAL TOUR

From March '06 through Dec. '07, Deborah will tour, performing music from the DVD with Orchestras and Ensembles throughout the US and Europe.

MAY 8, SNEAK PREVIEW TICKETS - \$22.50
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ARTIST BIO - Deborah Henson-Conant sings and plays the harp, tells stories and composes music that runs the gamut from tender to bombastic. The Boston Globe describes her as an "electrifying harpist/singer/comedian" and NPR's Scott Simon says, "imagine the talented love-child of André Previn and Lucille Ball." Forget the 6-foot-tall gold concert harp; Henson-Conant straps on her custom-designed solid-body electric harp, plugs in, and plays music that ranges from intimate ballads to flamenco rock. Her shows are always a mix of musical storytelling and virtuosic playing in a genre she calls, "Blues-Flamenco-Celtic-Funk-Folk-Jazz."

Henson-Conant hit the music charts in the late 80's with her three albums on the GRP label. Since then she's established her own indie record label and released a dozen albums from straight-ahead jazz to Celtic, with blues, folk-pop and spoken word in between. She's jammed on- and off-stage with performers from Bobby McFerrin to Eileen Ivers, opened for Ray Charles at Tanglewood, and soloed with orchestras from the Boston Pops to the Prague Radio Orchestra. She's appeared as a symphony soloist, band-leader and one-woman show in rock clubs, opera houses, symphony halls, jazz clubs and festival stages throughout the US and Europe.

She's lectured at the Paris Conservatory, presented Creativity Lectures for business executives, been featured on "The Today Show," "CBS Sunday Morning" and NPR's "Weekend Edition," and received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Massachusetts Artists Fellowship, and "Meet the Composer." She's just received a project

**"Bending the rules
and shattering the
notion of what a
harpist can do."**

- CBS News *Nightwatch*

grant from the Wege Foundation to produce a performance DVD of her own orchestral works. She's a "cross-genre" artist whose performances are defined by high energy, eclectic music and intimate theatrical twists. For more info, including downloadable audio and live concert video, go to <http://www.HipHarp.com>.

TOURING - Deborah Henson-Conant makes her home in the Boston area but tours internationally, performing her original one-woman-shows and soloing with symphonies at theaters and festivals around the world (full tour schedule at www.HipHarp.com).

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