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Contact: Kaitlyn Siner
401-339-0954
siner.kaitlyn@gmail.com

“HONEY, I SHRUNK THE HARP!”: GRAMMY NOMINATED ELECTRIC HARPIST TAKES AUDIENCE ON JOURNEY TO REVEAL NAKED TRUTH

Boston’s own Deborah Henson-Conant performs live in concert at the Regent Theater in Arlington, MA, on Nov. 6, 2010 at 8 pm

Boston, MA - The harp is an instrument older than the bible, yet by the 21st century, its design was still antiquated, literally weighing down Grammy-Nominated Harpist Deborah Henson-Conant, who decided to use modern technology to shrink its classic form. Like Les Paul’s development of electric guitar in the 1940’s, Henson-Conant’s collaboration with French harp builder CAMAC has culminated in a revolutionary new instrument: The Electric Harp.

The cutting-edge model is the first commercially produced carbon-fibre harp, and is a 32-string instrument, featuring an airbrushed surface and aerodynamic design, which began production in 2010, and is named after Henson-Conant, called the “DHC-Blue-Light.” Her new show, *Honey, I Shrunk the Harp!* on Nov. 6 at the Regent Theatre in Arlington MA, reveals the personal experience that took place during the 20-year metamorphosis of both Henson-Conant and her instrument, in a journey of music, movement, science and story, showcasing the design that makes the DHC-Blue-Light the iPad of the harp world.

During the show, both instrument and player are deconstructed, peeling away layers. “I wanted to create a physical and musical metaphor of my own experience of simultaneously discovering and inventing this instrument - an experience that forced me to also rediscover and reinvent *myself*. When you abstract it and tell the story that way, it reveals a universal experience – of being changed by that which we seek to change.”

Weighing in at only 11 lbs. (compared to the 75+ lbs of a typical 6’-high concert grand harp) the DHC-BL’s whimsical size is unprecedented for its light-weight, powerful sound and physical versatility. “It took two decades to develop this instrument,” says Henson-Conant, now considered the world’s foremost electric harp player. “My concept was to take everything great about the concert harp and shrink it to an interface on the scale of electric guitar. It’s a beautiful hardware device, and like many other successful devices, is built to interface with the human hand.” Other unique features include a harness that allows a performer to strap the harp to the body, and a looper pedal, which creates lushly orchestrated layers of music to support both the vocals and theatrical storytelling she weaves together into her shows.

“Harp is making a great resurgence, and now, I get the best of both new and old worlds,” she says. “This instrument is easy to travel with, it’s got a huge sound which – combined with the looper – rivals an ensemble, and as a solo artist I’m completely free to respond and change the show spontaneously.”

The instrument is now in such demand that it's constantly on backorder, but was originally developed specifically for Henson-Conant's shows, performances that combine theater, music, movement and stories in a kind of high-energy solo Nouvelle-Cabaret that requires physical freedom – and music that ranges from ethereal soundscapes to gutbucket blues.

Henson-Conant got her start in the Boston Jazz Scene in the 80's and has since gone on to become an internationally touring artist, a Grammy-Nominated recording artist and creator/star of her own hour-long music special, *Invention and Alchemy* on PBS. When she's not touring internationally, she makes the Boston area her home, and also self-produces a yearly concert in the Boston area. Come see this year's show, "Honey, I Shrunk the Harp!"

Tickets for "Honey, I Shrunk the Harp," are \$19.50-\$35: Order by phone at 781-646-4849, or online: http://www.regenttheatre.com/events/shrunk_harp.htm

FOR MORE INFO / TO SCHEDULE INTERVIEW:

Kaitlyn Siner/401-339-0954 or siner.kaitlyn@gmail.com

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ARTIST BIO:

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Deborah Henson-Conant is a Grammy-Nominated composer-performer and the world's premiere electric harpist. She sings, plays and tells stories in Nouvelle- Cabaret shows that combine styles from Flamenco to Blues. She's toured internationally, debuted with the Boston Pops, opened for Ray Charles at Tanglewood, jammed onstage with Bobby McFerrin and offstage with Aerosmith's Steven Tyler, and starred in her own music special on PBS, "Invention & Alchemy." She's been featured on shows from CBS' "Sunday Morning" and NBC's "Today Show" to NPR's "Weekend Edition," and interviewed by hosts and journalists from Scott Simon, Susan Stamberg and Studs Terkel to Charlie Rose and Joan Rivers.

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PRESS QUOTES:

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"... a night with Henson-Conant is some enchanted evening ..." **The Boston Globe**

"She may look like an angel, but she plays devilishly well." **Joan Rivers**

"In concert, Henson-Conant looks like an athlete at times ... shoulder muscles strain and flex... Other times ... the lift and sweep of her arms could be a ballet move from 'Swan Lake.'" **Christian Science Monitor**

Artist Management: Beatriz Harley, info@HipHarp.com, 781-483-3556

Artist Website: <http://www.HipHarp.com>

More Info: <http://www.hipharp.com/publicity.html>

Hi-Res Images: <http://www.hipharp.com/pressphotos.html>

Event page for this Concert: <http://www.hipharp.com/events/regent-shrunkharp2010.html>