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"INSIDE THE MUSIC – OUTSIDE THE BOX"

Exploring Musical Performance with DEBORAH HENSON-CONANT

July 9-14, 2007 - International harpist Deborah Henson-Conant will present a workshop at "The Celebration Barn" in South Paris, Maine with special guest Karen Montanaro.

The unique and memorable thing about great performers is that each has committed to their own persona . . . a persona that feels as right on the inside as it looks on the outside. Developing that persona, externalizing it and infusing your instrument and your performance with it can sometimes be a matter of simply liberating yourself, and sometimes a matter of painstaking practice and experimentation. This workshop teaches you to do both.

Your strength and uniqueness as a performer has to do with the fact that you're more than a musician . . . you are YOU . . . you have a persona, a mystique, a physicality, a "look" and a style of your own. Maybe you haven't found it yet. Maybe you're afraid of it. Maybe you don't know how to get comfortable with it, how to develop it. Or maybe you've found it and now you want to expand it. This workshop is for you.

The workshop is open to harpists 18 and older, (other instrumentalists may also be accepted), and is focused towards those looking to develop their own style, and or interested in help with direction and coaching. This workshop is specifically designed for professionals and pre-professionals looking to create a new show, develop or hone performance techniques, find their own voice, physically integrate with their instruments and/or develop a more integrated program (i.e. incorporate singing with harp-playing, narration or storytelling, dance, etc.).

While Deborah will present specific harp techniques, this workshop focuses on performance exploration and on the development of a personal style of playing and performing. This workshop will be team-taught by Deborah's performance coach, Karen Montanaro, using techniques from the "Montanaro Method" that Deborah, herself, first used to develop her own unique style of playing. The workshop goal is to help performers transition from their current level of performance to the next level. The focus is not to teach harpists to play like Deborah, but to help them discover and develop the art of playing in their OWN individual style.

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SPECIAL WORKSHOP FEATURES

- **Competition piece practice & development.** For those planning to compete in upcoming competitions, this workshop is timed to give you a chance to develop your overall performance as well as hone specific harp techniques.
- **Electric Harp / Harness Harp try-outs.** You'll have a chance to try various models of electric harps, both strap-on and standing harps, learn to adapt lap harps to strap them on and have a chance to experiment with Deborah's harp harness model
- **Amplification techniques.** You'll have a chance to work with a simply sound system and to experiment with both wireless and "hardwired" technologies
- **Saturday Night Show.** At the workshop's close there is an opportunity to try-out what you've learned in front of an audience.

WORKSHOP COMBINES PRIVATE COACHING, MASTER-CLASS & ENSEMBLE IMPROV:

- **Full-class warmups and improvs:** Physical warmups precede morning improvisation exercises. Using techniques that combine theatre, dance, mime and physical improv, these exercises enhance players' comfort-level with their bodies and their instruments.
- **"The Mime of Music":** How can you literally embody the style of music you're playing, from "classical" to "jazz" to "rock" and "folk"? These exercises teach students to approach performance from a purely physical standpoint so they can learn to let their bodies express the music they're playing.
- **Daily Harmony and Technique Drills:** These teach you to keep up with the flow of the music, regardless of your level of playing - more advanced players learn how to build challenges into their work and less advanced players learn to simplify so all can maintain a common flow with the music.
- **Private directing-sessions:** These sessions take place every afternoon. This is a chance to work one-on-one with Deborah and Karen and both harp-techniques and purely physical techniques.
- **Performance-study and critique:** Evenings are devoted to session that offer students a chance to get feedback on performance and to gain insight from seeing others' development

Register to hold your place by contacting Celebration Barn:

info@celebrationbarn.com / (207) 743 – 8452 Phone / (207) 743 – 3889 Fax

Email for Application Requirements to info@HipHarp.com. They're likely to include:

- **SAMPLE:** video or audio, preferably on DVD or CD - no more than 3 minutes total length (MP3s are fine)
- **OVERVIEW:** brief (no more than one page) description of what your performance and career goals are, where you want to "go" with your performance, and what your personal frustrations are with your playing; on a separate page, please describe why you are specifically interested in this workshop and in working with these teachers
- **TECHNICAL INFO:** what kind of harp do you play?

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PRELIMINARY FAQ (in process):

Who is Karen Montanaro & why is she team-teaching this workshop with Deborah Henson-Conant?

Karen Montanaro has coached Deborah on performance and development; Karen was a creative consultant on Deborah's recent DVD "Invention & Alchemy". Karen and Deborah were both students of one of the greatest mimes of the 20th century, Tony Montanaro. Shunning the stereotypical whiteface and silence, Montanaro challenged his students to court the Unknown and to always "Try something new and see what it does to you." Karen and Deborah share a vocabulary of exploration techniques and a similar ethic of working to develop each performer's personal style.

What is the "Montanaro Method"?

The Montanaro Method centers around a unique style of improvisation. Based on the premise that each individual is directly connected to their creative source, this workshop provides a method for directly accessing that source. The Montanaro Method empowers your presence and jump-starts your repertoire. For this workshop, we will direct the Montanaro Method specifically at harp performers and their unique relationship to their instrument and the development of individual style.

Does Deborah offer private instruction outside of the workshop?

For students wishing private instruction, inquire at info@HipHarp.com about the possibility of scheduling private sessions in Boston in the days either immediately preceding or following the workshop week.

For more about Deborah Henson-Conant: www.HipHarp.com

For more about Celebration Barn Workshops: www.CelebrationBarn.com

- The End (for now) -