

Live Concert DVD Filming!

with The Grand Rapids Symphony



**Composer/Performer
Deborah Henson-Conant**



**Conductor
David Lockington**

Nov. 11, 12 & 13, 2005
DeVos Performance Hall • Grand Rapids, MI

Boston-Area Sneak Preview • Sat. Sept. 24th Arlington Center for the Arts
(see inside for details of all performances)

Twenty years ago, Deborah Henson-Conant slapped an electric pickup on her concert harp, formed a band and started touring Europe with shows that combined music and theater – in musical genres from Blues to Flamenco. She landed a contract with a major U.S. record label, hit the charts and was suddenly the world’s premier revolutionary harp icon. Was that enough for her? No way! She started arranging her music for symphony orchestra. “You never know,” she said. “The Boston Pops might call.” They called. She told the major European harpmaker she dreamed of a harp she could strap on and plug in, so she could move around the stage with the abandon of a rock star. He built it. She put all that together: the electric harp, the theater, the singing, the big symphony orchestra – and now, in collaboration with David Lockington and the Grand Rapids Symphony – she’s about to put it all on CD & DVD. You can be there when it happens.

PHOTO LEFT: Anrea Engels (Germany Tour)
PHOTO RIGHT: © Steve J. Sherman (Carnegie Hall)

www.HipHarp.com

INSIDE:

- “Behind-the-scenes” look at Deborah’s DVD Project
- Tour Dates & Show Descriptions
- CD Catalogue

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“...bending the rules and shattering the notion of what a harpist can do.” Steve Roberts – CBS News Nightwatch
P.O. BOX 1039
ARLINGTON, MA 02474

Here's a behind-the-scenes look at the work Deborah's been doing to prepare for the DVD filming and CD recording of her original show with the Grand Rapids Symphony. The concert/filming takes place in front of a live audience Nov. 11, 12 & 13 at DeVos Performance Hall in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

What does it take to prepare for a live concert DVD with full orchestra?

First, it helps to know that Deborah's orchestral shows combine elements of concerts, music theatre and one-woman shows ... with a cast of 70. The 70, in this case, are the incredibly talented, spirited players of the Grand Rapids Symphony. *(See photo next page)*

1. Composing & Arranging

Because this is an original show, Deborah needs to compose and prepare all the music for a 70-piece orchestra. That's something she can't do alone. She works with a creative and administrative team - everyone from musicians, conductors and directors to the careful people who photocopy and bind the music.

2. Rehearsals & "Maquettes"

Deborah invents all the music in her "MusicLab" and tests it using electronic instruments - but that's nothing like hearing it live! All the material needs to be tested by real musicians before the final concerts are filmed. For that, Deborah uses both rehearsals and "Maquettes."

REHEARSALS: Sometimes Deborah rehearses with single musicians or small ensembles - but last July she flew to Grand Rapids with Producer Jonathan Wyner and Stage Manager Mary Roy to hear the whole symphony play through the first draft of the music. After discussions with the conductor and players, Deborah came back to her MusicLab to begin the long process of editing and revising.

MAQUETTES: are "Scale Models" of the show - a chance to perform a smaller version of the show in front of a live audience. The show structure and all the creative material is the same, it's just the size of the ensemble that's smaller. The next maquette is Sept. 24 and will include eight musicians plus Deborah and Conductor David Lockington. *(details at right)*

3. Script & Concept Development

For a show of this scope everyone needs to literally be "on the same page," so Deborah, together with Producer Jonathan Wyner and Creative Coach Lee Faulkner, created the outline for a script and then Deborah spent weeks filling in that outline. Unlike the script for a play, this script doesn't just include the dialogues, monologues and stage movement, but it outlines each musical piece, section by section, so that the video director knows which members of the orchestra are playing which musical "roles" at any given time.

All of this is just Deborah's part of the prep. At the same time, players, directors, conductors, producers, stage managers are all working on their own part of this wonderful puzzle!

This project is made possible by a private grant from Peter M. Wege and the Wege Foundation. To learn more about this project and the players involved, visit HipHarp.com.

At right: The front of the concert trading card we made for this show. Photo: Brion Price



Appearances

SNEAK PREVIEW FOR BOSTON AREA FANS!

Chamber Ensemble "Maquette"

David Lockington, Conductor

Sat. Sept. 24 • 2 pm

Arlington Center for the Arts

41 Foster St • Arlington, MA

Limited Seating! • Tix \$22.50

Tix: www.HipHarp.com

The Boston Globe Presents

"An Elite Group of Innovative Speakers" at the

IDEAS Conference 2005

Thu. Oct. 6: 8am - 5:30pm & Fri. Oct. 7: 8am - 2 pm

Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

Tix: www.boston.com/ideasboston or (800) 222-8734

Check above website for the exact times and locations of Deborah's presentations.

LIVE CONCERT & DVD / CD RECORDING!

Live Concert DVD/CD Recording

Grand Rapids Symphony

David Lockington, Conductor

with special guest: John Varineau

Fri. Nov. 11 & Sat. Nov. 12 at 8 pm

and Sun. Nov. 13 at 3 pm

DeVos Performance Hall • Grand Rapids, MI

Become a part of symphony history as Deborah and the GRS record their new multi-format DVD/CD.

Tix: www.ticketmaster.com / 616-456-3333

2006 Caernarfon Festival • Wales

Workshop & Concert • Fri. Apr. 21 & Sat. Apr. 22
Deborah's appearance sponsored by CAMAC Harps

COMING IN 2006/2007:

Album Release Events in Grand Rapids, MI & Boston, MA; Syracuse Symphony, touring in Germany, West Coast, New England and more

The universe is in a constant state of flux - and so is Deborah's tour schedule. Check HipHarp.com Tour Schedule and/or join her Cyber-Fan Club for tour updates and specials.

Missed a show?

Keep up-to-date on DHC's schedule

Join Deborah's email list online:

www.HipHarp.com

Deborah Henson-Conant and the Grand Rapids Symphony DVD PROJECT COUNTDOWN

Deborah's symphonic DVD/CD Project with the Grand Rapids Symphony spans nearly 3 years from inception to end. Below is a countdown to the recording/performance dates ... and beyond!

SEPT. 24 - FINAL SNEAK PREVIEW: •MaquetteŽ performance with a chamber ensemble at Arlington Center for the Arts. (see pg. 2)

OCT. 24 - 31 - APPEARANCES & REHEARSALS: Deborah makes promotional appearances in Grand Rapids and rehearses with individual players. Schedule TBA - Check HipHarp.com •Tour ScheduleŽ in mid-October for dates.

OCT. 30 - GRAND RAPIDS MARATHON: Deborah & Producer Jonathan Wyner run the 2nd annual Grand Rapids Marathon (OK, OK ... Deborah's just running the half-marathon - and verry slowly ... Jonathan's running the whole thing).

NOV. 8 & 9: PRODUCTION TEAM ARRIVES IN GRAND RAPIDS: Director, Line Producer, Assistant Director and all the other production crew assemble in Grand Rapids to prepare for recording.

NOV. 10-13: REHEARSALS, CONCERTS & RECORDINGS at DeVos Performance Hall in Grand Rapids: (see pg. 2) . These four days include two rehearsals, three performances and a •patch sessionŽ or •finishing touchesŽ recording session, all with the Grand Rapids Symphony.

NOV. 15 - FEB. 1, 2006 - POST PRODUCTION: Editing both video and audio footage, development of the packaging, filming and editing of special features.

SPRING •06 - ALBUM RELEASE & TOURING: DVD/CD Release parties in Boston & Grand Rapids.

MAR •06 - DEC •07- DVD RELEASE TOUR: From March •06 through Dec. •07, Deborah will tour, performing music from the DVD/CD solo and with ensembles.

PHOTOS THIS PAGE: Brion Price (above) & GRS Photo File (below)

Can't believe my powerful connection with the Grand Rapids Symphony comes from the fact that we all take the joy, the passion and the humor of music equally seriously.Ž Deborah Henson-Conant

The Grand Rapids Symphony

•A glimmer of hope for all of us in the music world. •

What are shows like?

Whether she performs solo or with orchestra, Deborah's audiences know to expect the unexpected. Music, stories, comedy, and a symphony of sound - literally a symphony!

In over a dozen story-songs, and styles from Flamenco to Blues you'll see harp, voice and orchestra in ways you never dreamed of and hear unlikely musical stories: Flamenco dancers stumble onto a time machine and end up in Marie Antoinette's boudoir in •Baroque FlamencoŽ Poet Robert Burns and author J.D. Salinger share emotions in her •Catcher in the RyeŽ Scientists study the physics of strapless evening gowns in •The Danger ZoneŽ

Conductor David Lockington says of Deborah: •She's a perfectionist, fireball and prima donna in the best possible way. She is a consummate artist: a virtuoso harp player and genius improviser. Performing for this DVD/CD project will stretch the orchestra in a new way.Ž

Isn't November 11th Deborah's birthday?

Yes, it is! When you come to the show in Grand Rapids, you're coming to Deborah's best ever birthday party (yes, even better than getting a bike AND a ukelele when she was 7)! So fans who come annually to Deborah's Birthday

Bash, head on over to Grand Rapids for the biggest bash of all! Who needs cake and balloons? We'll have a whole symphony!

Come to the show! Be part of the DVD!

At Deborah's shows, the audience is often invited to participate, so if you're in the audience for the November shows, you'll see the lights and the cameras ... and you're likely to end up on the DVD! These performances will live on, nationwide, long after the last note is played ... so come be part of the magic!

Tell your friends!

Geographically challenged? Don't know if you have friends near Grand Rapids, MI? Well f Chicago, Detroit, Ann Arbor, Flint and Kalamazoo are all within driving distance. Visit your friends! Bring them to the show! Or just send them tickets!

Out-of-towners:

Check our website for links to hotels and B&B's near DeVos Performance Hall -- including one of Deborah's favorite hotels (Amway Grand Plaza), connected to the hall by an indoor walkway! You can walk to the concert right from your hotel room! See •Tour ScheduleŽ page at HipHarp.com for links.

www.HipHarp.com