

# Invention & Alchemy on DVD & CD

Deborah Henson-Conant • The Grand Rapids Symphony • David Lockington, Music Director

In November of 2005, Deborah Henson-Conant took to the stage with 80 of her friends to record the new concert DVD & CD "Invention & Alchemy." If you were among the nearly 6,000 people in the audience during the filming, you know what's in store for you on this DVD. For the rest of you ... get ready for a whole new experience!

**T**hink the symphony orchestra only plays serious classical music composed by dead guys? Think only angels play the harp? THINK AGAIN!!!

"Invention & Alchemy" reignites the symphony and brings you the *new face* of collaboration between symphony, composer, audience and performers.

It all starts in the mind of Deborah Henson-Conant – a mind where stories meet music, invention meets alchemy and a whole symphony orchestra can transform from a Mexican street band into a sultry musical harem in a split second.

Henson-Conant plays electric harp, sings and leads this wild adventure like a tour guide of the imagination. She also writes the stories, music, lyrics and orchestrations – and her shows feature orchestra members the way a movie features actors. She's performed with orchestras from the Boston Pops to the Prague Radio Orchestra, but she fell in love with the Grand Rapids Symphony when she first visited as a guest artist in 1999. Now that love affair is captured on DVD & CD.

## THE CONCERT PROGRAM

The eleven segments of the concert program are like a collection of musical short stories that come to life on stage. The orchestra becomes a science lab in "Danger Zone," complete with lab coats and bubbling test tubes. In "996," Lockington transforms into a sultan, leaving the conductor's podium wielding his cello like a scimitar. Henson-Conant marches to the back of the orchestra for a duet with timpanist David Gross in "Catcher in the Rye," sings a haunting lullaby in "The Nightingale," plays the soundtrack for an imaginary movie in "Merceditas" and takes a trip in a time



machine in "Baroque Flamenco," all with the help of her talented friends - the 80 members of the Grand Rapids Symphony.

## SPECIAL BONUS FEATURES!

In addition to the 97-minute concert program, the DVD includes the following:

### BEHIND-THE-SCENES

This 18-minute film with interviews, rehearsal footage and concert excerpts is a companion piece to the concert. For six days, videographer Rick DiGregorio followed Deborah, the crew and the musicians, filming everything from the makeup artist to the harp techs to Deborah's one-on-one rehearsals with players, then put it all together in this video backstage pass.

### WHITE RABBITS

10 interactive video portals by filmmaker Ian Brownell let you peek behind the program as it rolls. In these segments, Deborah and producer Jonathan Wyner tell the stories-behind-the-stories and reveal some of Deborah's performance techniques.

### HEALING THE WATERS

Members of the Grand Rapids Ballet join Henson-Conant, conductor Lockington (on cello) and associate conductor John Varineau (on clarinet) for a tribute to the project's sponsor and champion, Peter Wege. "Healing the Waters" is an intimate pas de deux inspired by Wege's environmental project of the same name, and is an homage to Wege's passion for the arts and environment.

For more about  
"Invention & Alchemy"  
including downloadable photos,  
press release, video trailer,  
a Who's Who of Cast & Crew:

[www.HipHarp.com](http://www.HipHarp.com)