

## Party Time with the Wild Woman of the Harp

Deborah Henson-Conant's Annual Birthday Bash Concert

Sat. Nov. 22nd - The Regent Theatre, Arlington

*“Deborah Henson-Conant is why they call making music 'playing'. She is doing her job, but she’s having more fun than most people have on vacation” - Grand Rapids Press*

*“She dresses like a showgirl, plays the pants off the harp, and tells tall tales with the ease of a standup comic. Imagine a talkative Harpo Marx in a mini-skirt and you begin to get the picture” - The Plain Dealer*

For the past 10 years, international performing- and recording-artist Deborah Henson-Conant has celebrated her birthday by throwing her own Birthday Bash at her hometown theatre. She moved to Arlington in 2002, so nowadays, she celebrates at Arlington's Regent Theatre.

**WHAT'S SHE CELEBRATING?** - Aside from her Birthday, she's celebrating the release of her new CD Artist's Proof (see page 2).

**WHAT'S THE CONCERT LIKE?** - Best known as the world's premier jazz harpist, Deborah Henson-Conant has expanded her repertoire and style considerably over the past decade. Her music is a mix of blues, latin, scat & storytelling. Her stage style is half-virtuosic-showman and half-intimate-chat. Forget the 6-foot-tall gold concert harp; Henson-Conant straps on her custom-designed solid body electric harp, plugs it in, and plays music that ranges from Celtic influenced ballads to electric rock. In her stories, watermelons swing their hips like Elvis, dogs go back to school to get their pedigrees and Jimi Hendrix turns up the distortion on his solid body electric harp in Heaven.



**WHO:** Deborah Henson-Conant

**WHAT:** Solo concert: electric harp & voice – blues, latin, scat & storytelling plus a CD pre-release

**WHEN:** Sat. Nov. 22, 8pm

**WHERE:** Regent Theatre – Arlington, MA

**HOW MUCH:** \$22.50 adv / \$25 show date

**TICKETS/INFO:** www.HipHarp.com / (888) DEB STUF / (781) 483-3986 or at www.regenttheatre.com / (781) 646-4849

**HI-RESOLUTION PHOTOS ONLINE:** www.HipHarp.com - go to “Publicity” page

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**CD-release party for "Artist's Proof- Phase 2" - Regent Theatre, Sat. Nov. 22**  
at the artist's Annual Birthday Bash Concert (*see page 1 for more info on the concert*)

**"ARTIST'S PROOF CDs:" AN INTERACTIVE RECORDING PROJECT WITH AUDIO & VIDEO –**

When Henson-Conant works on an album, she often makes "artist's proofs" before going into final production. These are full-blown arrangements, but often more intimate and raw than the final cuts. Some of the artist proof cuts make it into the final release and others are re-produced - but the "Artist's Proof" CD is the blueprint for the final album. By releasing the "artist's proof" of her new album on a limited scale, Deborah Henson-Conant allows her fan base to participate in the creative process, while giving herself a chance to get listener feedback before national release of the recording. The final version of her new enhanced CD (including video & audio) is scheduled for release in March 2004, but in 2003 she's releasing two separate "Artist's Proof" versions of the CD to limited audiences. She releases them in two phases:

**PHASE 1** – "Artist's Proof" was released at the Regattabar in September 2003. Nearly a hundred "Questionnaire" responses came in from fans all over the U.S. Deborah & her producers have used those answers to help them determine what changes to make in "Phase 2".



**PHASE 2** – Phase 2 is an expansion of phase 1. It will include additional audio cuts and changes in arrangements based on listener and producer's responses. "Artist's Proof – Phase 2" will be released at Henson-Conant's Birthday Bash concert on November 22, 2003 at The Regent Theatre.

"Artist's Proof" and "Artist's Proof - Phase 2" are produced by Jonathan Wyner, with videography by Ian Brownell. **More info on the "Artist's Proof" project can be found at [www.HipHarp.com](http://www.HipHarp.com).**

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## **Deborah Henson-Conant**

**BRIEF ARTIST BIO** - Harpist, singer, composer, entertainer, comedian – find one person who embodies them all and you begin to describe Deborah Henson-Conant on stage. She's played the Edinburgh Fringe festival with her one-woman show "HipHarp Fantasies," toured the country with the Boston Pops, opened for Ray Charles at Tanglewood and been featured on CBS, NBC, PBS and NPR. Henson-Conant, live on stage, presents her own style of musical theater: stories with music, and virtuosic harp playing in genres from blues to flamenco. With her solid-body, electric harp strapped on her back and wailing the Blues, Henson-Conant creates a whole new image of the Troubadour Harpist.

**CAREER OVERVIEW** – Henson-Conant hit the jazz charts in the late 80's with her three albums on the GRP label. Since then she's established her own independent record label and released a dozen albums from straight-ahead jazz to Celtic, blues, folk-pop and spoken word. She's jammed off-stage and on with the likes of Steven Tyler, Rufus Reid, Keith Lockhart, Marvin Hamlisch and Gary Larsen (yes, that Gary Larsen). She composes for full orchestra - or solo harp and voice - and has performed in symphony halls, rock clubs and on festival stages throughout the US and Europe. She's lectured at the Paris Conservatory, and received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Massachusetts Artists Fellowship, and "Meet the Composer." She's a "cross-genre" artist whose performances rely on musical, theatrical content, rather than on one style of music.

**TOURING** - Deborah Henson-Conant makes her home in the Boston area, but most of the time she's on tour out-of-state, where she solos with symphonies or performs her one-woman-shows at theaters and festivals (full tour schedule at [www.HipHarp.com](http://www.HipHarp.com)).

***“Calling Henson-Conant a harpist is like calling Joe DiMaggio a guy with a bat. Technically it’s correct, but you’re just scratching the surface.” - Grand Rapids Press***