

“Stand Up & Sing, Harp Lady!”

Deborah Henson-Conant in a one-woman show!

The Boston area knows Deborah Henson-Conant best as the performer who shot to national prominence by playing jazz on the harp. But since she signed with GRP Records in the late 80’s, Henson-Conant has reinvented herself and her work repeatedly. She debuted with the Boston Pops in the 90’s, then wrote and performed countless new works with orchestras all around the US. She continues to tour internationally and has written and performed three one-woman shows, one with full orchestral backing. This January, she’s debuting her latest one-woman show, “Stand Up and Sing, Harp Lady!” at Jimmy Tingle’s

Off-Broadway Theater in Davis Square, Somerville. (See show blurb below).

Forget the 6-foot-tall gold concert harp; Henson-Conant straps on her custom-designed solid-body electric harp, plugs in, and plays music that ranges from intimate ballads to flamenco rock. According to Cleveland’s *Plain Dealer*, Henson-Conant “dresses like a showgirl, plays the pants off the harp, and tells

tall tales with the ease of a standup comic.” Her shows are always a mix of musical storytelling and virtuosic playing in a genre she calls, “Blues-Flamenco-Celtic-Funk-Folk-Jazz.” For more information on this show and on Henson-Conant, visit www.HipHarp.com or contact Eugene Song at (781) 483-3556.

“Bending the rules and shattering the notion of what a harpist can do.”
- CBS News Nightwatch

WHO: Deborah Henson-Conant

WHAT: Her new one-woman show, “Stand Up and Sing, Harp Lady!”

WHEN: Thu, Fri & Sat
Jan. 6, 7, 8 & 13, 14, 15 • 7:30pm

WHERE: Jimmy Tingle’s Off Broadway Theater • Somerville, MA

HOW MUCH: \$18/ticket

FOR TICKETS: (866) 811-4111 or www.JTOffBroadway.com

MORE INFO: (781) 483-3556 or www.HipHarp.com

High-Res & In-Concert Photos:
www.HipHarp.com/publicity.html

Downloadable Video & Audio:
www.HipHarp.com/media.html



All photos: Brion Price - Orlando, FL



“Stand Up and Sing, Harp Lady!”

Deborah Henson-Conant’s New One-Woman Show

Little Debby never wanted to play the harp. What loud-mouthed, in-your-face 12-year old would? “You’ll never get ME to play that sissy hunk of wood!” she screamed.

But through an irony of karmic twists, Deborah ended up as the world’s pre-eminent jazz harpist by the time she hit 30. That’s when she realized it wasn’t just a coincidence. The frilly, hulking, Evil Instrument had trapped her, chained her to a harp bench and locked her in a prison of strings and gold façade. It was slowly sucking her dry!

“Stand Up and Sing, Harp Lady!” is the story of Deborah’s escape. The tale of how flamenco rhythms, blues licks, and a cheap distortion pedal set her free and launched her to cult stardom. The story of the mad Frenchman who finally

built her a solid-body rock-harp she could strap on, plug in, and crank up. “This is more like it,” she shouts. “Yeah, this is the instrument Jimi Hendrix is playing right now.”

“Stand Up and Sing, Harp Lady!” It’s music. It’s theater. It’s one-woman musical theater.

BRIEF ARTIST BIO - Deborah Henson-Conant sings and plays the harp, tells stories and composes music that runs the gamut from tender to bombastic. “Stand Up” is the fourth one-woman show she has written. Her first, titled “Altered Ego” premiered at Boston’s Lyric Stage Theater in 1998, “The Frog Princess” debuted with the Buffalo Philharmonic in 2000, and “Hip Harp Fantasies” premiered at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2001.

Henson-Conant hit the music charts in the late 80’s with her three albums on the GRP label. Since then she’s established her own indie record label and released a dozen albums from straight-ahead jazz to Celtic, with blues, folk-pop and spoken word in between. She’s jammed on- and off-stage with performers from **Bobby McFerrin** to **Eileen Ivers**, opened for **Ray Charles** at **Tanglewood**, and soloed with orchestras from the **Boston Pops** to the **Prague Radio Orchestra**. She’s appeared as a symphony soloist, band-leader and one-woman show in rock clubs, opera houses, symphony halls, jazz clubs and festival stages throughout the US and Europe. She’s lectured at the **Paris Conservatory**, presented “Creativity Lectures” for business executives, been featured on “**The Today Show**,” “**CBS Sunday Morning**” and **NPR’s “Weekend Edition**,” 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 are defined by high energy, eclectic music and intimate theatrical twists. For more info, including downloadable audio and live concert video, go to “www.HipHarp.com”

TOURING - Deborah Henson-Conant makes her home in the Boston area, but tours internationally, performing her original one-woman-shows and soloing with symphonies at theaters and festivals around the world (full tour schedule at www.HipHarp.com).