

MORNING STORIES TRANSCRIPT

The Birthday Song: Singer and storyteller Deborah Henson-Conant tells us about a demanding relationship as the years go by – the one with herself.

Tony Kahn:

Hi. This is Tony Kahn, the producer and the director of *Morning Stories* on WGBH Boston. Podcasting is fresh and new, but some of us around here, well, we're not getting any younger. We asked Deborah Henson-Conant, a Boston-based jazz harpist and singer how she deals with the problem of birthdays and the incredible mystery of how the time between the cakes keeps shortening while the number of candles expands.

Deborah Henson-Conant:

[Music/song begins... Now when your birthday comes around and you wish that it didn't, and all those people are comin' up to you and saying, 'Oh you're not getting older...' [sound of chattering women] "...you're getting better.' Yeah, right. And you know that no matter how much better you get, you're still...getting older. And then one day you wake up on your birthday [sound like a heavenly choir] and you just wish that the birthday fairy would go visit somebody else.

[Door slamming] "And stay out!"

Well, here's what you do when that birthday happens to you. You walk up to your bathroom mirror and you look yourself straight in the eyes, because those eyes might be in an older face, but those eyes are still the eyes of a child and that child has been with you from the very first day and that child has been with you every single step of the way. And that child, that child needs to hear you say "Congratulations! You made it this far."

[singing]

*Congratulations, you made it this far
Congratulations, for everything you are
You think you're nowhere doing nothing,
To me you are a shining star
Congratulations, Congratulations, Congratulations
You made it this far.*

Tony Kahn:

That's today's podcast. Remember, we podcast every Friday from WGBH radio – Boston. And be sure to check out our website at <www.wgbh.org/morningstories> (all one word).

[End of recording]

Transcribed by: Bev Sykes