

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

New York City Center 2020 Gala features

An Evening with Audra McDonald

**Filmed live on the City Center stage, the digital Gala concert premieres December 9;
Available on demand for one week only**

Gala packages available now; Concert-only access on sale November 16

New York, NY/October 28, 2020 – New York City Center President & CEO **Arlene Shuler** today announced the 2020 Gala presentation will take place on **Wednesday, December 9 at 7:30pm** (pre-show events begin at 6:30pm). Supporting the historic midtown theater founded for the people of New York, this special benefit performance titled **An Evening with Audra McDonald** will be filmed live on the City Center stage and presented digitally only at [NYCityCenter.org](https://www.nycitycenter.org). The Gala concert will be available on demand for one week only through Wednesday, December 16. Funds raised by all streamed performances will ensure City Center is able to continue its founding mission to provide access to the best in the performing arts to the widest possible audience and to support artists with new opportunities to create and perform.

“We are so excited and honored that the great Audra McDonald will be making her New York City Center debut as part of our annual gala presentation and our commitment to turning the lights back on at City Center,” said President & CEO **Arlene Shuler**. “While we may not be able to gather in celebration this year, I am delighted that we are able to capture Audra’s exceptional talent on our stage and bring the energy of this live performance directly to our audience.”



Longtime collaborator and music director **Andy Einhorn** will accompany the Tony, Grammy, and Emmy Award-winning McDonald for an intimate evening of songs showcasing her exceptional range from the golden age of Broadway and the Great American Songbook to today's new voices in musical theater. Widely praised for her unparalleled breadth and versatility as a singer and an actor, McDonald is as much at home on Broadway and opera stages as she is in roles on film and television. In addition to her theatrical work, she maintains a major career as a concert and recording artist and has appeared on the great stages of the world. Off stage, McDonald is a passionate advocate for equal rights, LGBTQ causes, and underprivileged youth. She is also a founding member of Black Theatre United, whose mission is to inspire reform and combat systemic racism within the theater community and throughout the nation.

Gala packages, including festive pre- and post-show events with City Center artists and McDonald herself, are available now starting at \$2,500. For additional information and reservations, email SpecialEvents@NYCityCenter.org.

Digital access for New York City Center's 2020 Gala concert starts at \$35 and goes **on sale to the general public Monday, November 16**, online at NYCityCenter.org. The Gala concert will be available on demand for one week only through Wednesday, December 16.

New York City Center is located at 131 West 55th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues. For information call 212.581.1212 or visit NYCityCenter.org. Programming subject to change.

NEW YORK CITY CENTER (Arlene Shuler, President & CEO) has played a defining role in the cultural life of the city since 1943. The distinctive neo-Moorish theater welcomes over 300,000 annual visitors to experience internationally acclaimed artists on the same stage where legends like George Balanchine, Leonard Bernstein, Barbara Cook, José Ferrer, Martha Graham, and Paul Robeson made their mark. Its landmark 75th Anniversary Season (2018 – 2019) paid tribute to this rich history and celebrated the institution's singular role in the arts today. City Center's Tony-honored Encores! series has celebrated the tradition of American musical theater for over 25 years. In 2013, City Center launched the Encores! Off-Center series, which brings today's innovative artists into contact with groundbreaking musicals from the more recent past. Dance has also been integral to the theater's mission from the start and programs like the annual Fall for Dance Festival, with all tickets \$15, remain central to City Center's identity. Home to a roster of renowned national and international companies including



Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (City Center's Principal Dance Company) and Manhattan Theatre Club, New York City Center is Manhattan's first performing arts center, founded by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia with the mission of making the best in music, theater, and dance accessible to all audiences. That mission continues today through its dynamic programming, art exhibitions, studio events, and master classes, which are complemented by education and community engagement programs that bring the performing arts to over 11,000 New York City students, teachers, and families each year. NYCityCenter.org

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