

NEW YORK CITY CENTER  
2020 GALA

AN  
EVENING  
WITH  
AUDRA  
McDONALD



DECEMBER  
2020

# NEW YORK CITY CENTER

## DECEMBER 2020

- 3 A Letter from Arlene Shuler
- 6 Program
- 25 Upcoming Events



We understand there is a long journey ahead of us before we can once again feel the thrill of a hushed silence fall over 2,200 audience members, all watching expectantly as our signature red curtain rises.

But we've already begun.

Our founding mandate was to be here for you, our dedicated audience, now and for centuries to come. In a historic turn, this fall City Center turned the lights back on to present the **Fall for Dance Festival** and **An Evening with Audra McDonald**—live from our mainstage, directly into your home.

#### Your gift will allow us to:

- Transform City Center's programming into digital virtual offerings
- Expand access to a global arts community
- Deepen our relationships with City Center's education partners
- Ensure a triumphant return to our mainstage when it is possible to safely reopen our doors

*Our journey home starts and ends with you.*

## MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY

Cover: Photo by Alison Michael Orenstein  
Above: Photo by Christopher Duggan Photography

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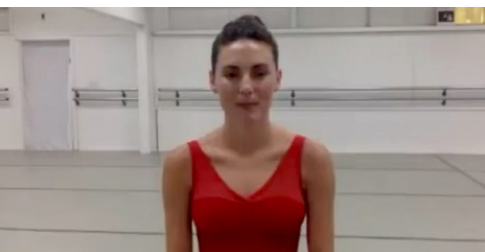
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As we come together for this historic **2020 Gala | An Evening with Audra McDonald**, I hope you and your loved ones are safe and well this holiday season. It has truly been an unprecedented year.

While we continue to navigate the ever-changing landscape of the pandemic, now more than ever I feel City Center has a unique responsibility to serve the city for which we are named. We are steadfast in our commitment to supporting artists and providing opportunities for them to create and perform, and connecting them with you, our loyal audience.

This summer we launched our digital programming free online with **Ayodele Casel's Diary of a Tap Dancer V.6: Us** and our **Studio 5** series hosted by **Alastair Macaulay** featuring **Misty Copeland, Sara Mearns, and Tiler Peck**. We proudly turned the lights back on at our beloved theater on 55th Street and welcomed artists back to our stage for the digital **Fall for Dance Festival** in October. Following the latest health and safety protocols, we were able to commission four new works by **Kyle Abraham, Dormeshia, Jamar Roberts, and Christopher Wheeldon**, and reached an audience that spanned all 50 states and 28 countries. Our **Encores! Inside the Revival** series, which offers a look inside the creative process for the productions in development, began last month with an episode featuring **Billy Porter** who is directing and adapting our future Encores! production of **The Life**. And now, we close out 2020 with the incomparable **Audra McDonald** making her City Center debut.

None of this would be possible without the amazing artists, crew, and staff working so hard behind the scenes and, of course, the support of our Board of Directors and our audience of friends and supporters at home. As we plan for the future, we intend to uphold our founding mandate to be here for you, our dedicated audience, now—and as Mayor Fiorella LaGuardia predicted at City Center's opening in 1943—for centuries to come.

Thank you for joining us for the 2020 Gala and for continuing to take this journey with us.

Happy Holidays from all of us.

**Arlene Shuler**  
President and CEO

NEW YORK CITY CENTER  
2020 GALA

AN  
EVENING  
WITH  
**AUDRA  
McDONALD**

DECEMBER 9, 2020

**Audra McDonald**

MUSIC DIRECTOR  
**Andy Einhorn**

HOST  
**Michael Urie**

SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY  
**Jonathan Groff**

PRODUCED BY  
**New York City Center and Nel Shelby Productions**

LIGHTING DESIGNER  
**Jennifer Schriever**

SOUND DESIGNER  
**Scott Lehrer**

SCRIPTWRITER  
**Callie Goff**

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER  
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER  
**Cody Renard Richard**

PRODUCER OF MUSICAL THEATER  
**Jenny Gersten**





## ACT I

### Solitude

Written by Eddie DeLange, Irving Mills and Duke Ellington

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### I Happen to Like New York

Written by Cole Porter

WC Music Corp. (ASCAP)

### I Double Dare You

Written by Jimmy Eaton and Terry Shand

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### Happiness is Just a Thing Called Joe

Written by E.Y. Harburg and Harold Arlen

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### The Glamorous Life

Written by Stephen Sondheim

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### It Never Was You

Written by Maxwell Anderson and Kurt Weill

Kurt Weill Foundation for Music, Inc. (ASCAP)

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### Somewhere/Some Other Time

“Some Other Time” Written by Leonard Bernstein, Betty Comden, and Adolph Green

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“Somewhere” Written by Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim

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# NEW YORK CITY CENTER

In 1943, Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia and City Council President Newbold Morris established New York City Center, Manhattan's first performing arts center, as a place where dance, theater, opera, and music could all be enjoyed under one roof—bringing the performing arts to all New Yorkers at affordable prices.

Today, the distinctive neo-Moorish theater welcomes over 300,000 annual visitors to experience dynamic performances, studio events, master classes, and art exhibitions—matched by education and community engagement programs that bring the performing arts to over 11,000 New York City students, teachers, and families each year. City Center remains committed to supporting artists during this crucial time, celebrating the resilience of the arts and its power to bring us together.



The Ancient Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine builds Mecca Temple.

1923

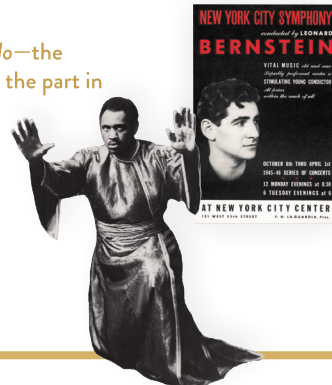
1943

Saved from demolition, a special concert by the New York Philharmonic celebrates the theater's opening on December 11 and Mayor LaGuardia himself conducts the national anthem.

1945

Paul Robeson performs *Othello*—the first African American to play the part in more than 100 years.

Leonard Bernstein debuts as conductor of the New York City Symphony at age 27.



Maestro Laszlo Halasz establishes the New York City Center Opera Company, later known as New York City Opera.

1944

Choreographer George Balanchine and impresario Lincoln Kirstein accept invitation to establish New York City Ballet.

1948

1954

William Hammerstein, son of Oscar Hammerstein II, establishes the New York City Center Light Opera Company. He is succeeded by Jean Dalrymple, a longtime board member, producer, director, and press agent.

1966

The newly formed Joffrey Ballet becomes a resident company—performing regularly for nearly 30 years.

2011

A \$56 million renovation, the most extensive project in the building's history, restores and modernizes the historic theater.

2004

The first Fall for Dance Festival, celebrating dance in all its forms, invites existing and new dance lovers to experience emerging and well-known artists. Its affordable ticket prices and thrilling performances continue to draw sell-out crowds.

1971

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater performs at City Center for the first time, and *Cry*, choreographed for Judith Jamison, is an instant hit. Now City Center's Principal Dance Company, Ailey was the first resident modern dance company.



Photo by R. Faligant

1994

The beloved, Tony-honored Encores! series is established, celebrating the tradition of American musical theater with annual revivals of three classic works featuring original orchestrations. The 1996 production of *Chicago* transfers to Broadway where it remains the longest-running revival in history.



Photo by Joan Marcus

2020

City Center Live @ Home programming launches online bringing City Center artists directly into our audiences' homes.

With theaters closed around the world, City Center turns the lights back on to present the Fall for Dance Festival digitally for the first time ever. The online presentation reaches a global audience.

2018

A landmark 75th Anniversary Season pays tribute to City Center's rich history while celebrating the institution's singular role in history and as a home where artists can bring their creative energies to life.

2013

Encores! Off-Center, a series reviving groundbreaking musicals from the more recent past as reimagined by today's innovative artists, has its first season.



Photo by Joan Marcus



We are delighted to thank the following individuals and institutions for their very generous support of the 2020 Gala | An Evening with Audra McDonald

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**ACT II**

**Before the Parade Passes By**

Written by Jerry Herman

Courtesy of Edwin H. Morris & Company, A Division of MPL Music Publishing, Inc. (ASCAP)

**Can't Stop Talking**

Written by Frank Loesser

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**A Sleepin' Bee**

Written by Harold Arlen & Truman Capote

Courtesy of Harwin Music Co. (ASCAP)

**March is a Windy Month**

Written by Adam Guettel

Matthew Music administered by Williamson Music Company

By arrangement with Concord

**Make Someone Happy**

Written by Jule Styne, Adolph Green, and Betty Comden

Stratford Music Corporation (ASCAP)

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**Climb Ev'ry Mountain**

Written by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II

Williamson Music Company

By arrangement with Concord

**May You Always/Auld Lang Syne**

"May You Always" Written by Dick Charles and Lawrence W. Markes

Courtesy of Harley Music

"Auld Lang Syne" Traditional







## MEET THE ARTISTS

**AUDRA MCDONALD** is unparalleled in the breadth and versatility of her artistry as both a singer and an actor. The winner of a record-breaking six Tony Awards, two Grammy Awards, and an Emmy, in 2015 she was named one of *Time* magazine's 100 most influential people and received a National Medal of Arts—America's highest honor for achievement in the field—from President Barack Obama. In addition to her Tony-winning performances in *Carousel*, *Master Class*, *Ragtime*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*, and *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill*—the role that also served as the vehicle for her 2017 debut in London's West End (2018 Olivier Award nomination)—she has appeared on Broadway in *The Secret Garden*, *Marie Christine* (Tony nomination), *Henry IV*, *110 in the Shade* (Tony nomination), *Shuffle Along*, or, *The Making of the Musical Sensation of 1921 and All That Followed*, and *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune* (Tony nomination). A Juilliard-trained soprano, her opera credits include *La voix humaine* and *Send* at Houston Grand Opera, and *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* at Los Angeles Opera, where the resulting recording earned her two Grammy Awards.

On television, she was seen by millions as the Mother Abbess in NBC's *The Sound of Music Live!* and played Dr. Naomi Bennett on ABC's *Private Practice*. She won an Emmy Award for her role as host of PBS's *Live From Lincoln Center* and has received nominations for *Wit*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, and *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill*. Having first appeared as Liz Lawrence on CBS's *The Good Wife*, she can now be seen on CBS All Access's *The Good Fight* and the upcoming pandemic-themed drama *Second Wave*. On film, she has appeared in *Seven Servants*, *The Object of My Affection*, *Cradle Will Rock*, *It Runs in the Family*, *The Best Thief in the World*, *She Got Problems*, *Rampart*, *Ricki and the Flash*, Disney's live-action *Beauty and the Beast*, the movie-musical *Hello Again*, and MGM's *Aretha Franklin biopic*, *Respect*, to be released in 2021.

McDonald has released five solo albums on the

Nonesuch label as well as *Sing Happy*, with the New York Philharmonic, on Decca Gold. She also maintains a major career as a concert artist, regularly appearing on the great stages of the world and with leading international orchestras. A founding member of Black Theatre United, board member of Covenant House International, and prominent advocate for LGBTQAI+ rights, her favorite roles are those performed offstage, as an activist, wife to actor Will Swenson, and mother.

**ANDY EINHORN** most recently served as the music supervisor and musical director for the Broadway productions of *Hello, Dolly!* starring Bette Midler and *Carousel* starring Renée Fleming. Einhorn's previous Broadway music directing and conducting credits include *Holiday Inn*, Woody Allen's *Bullets Over Broadway*, *Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella*, *Brief Encounter*, and *Sondheim on Sondheim*. Other Broadway work includes *Evita* and *The Light in the Piazza*.

Since 2011, Einhorn has served as music director and pianist for six-time Tony Award winner, Audra McDonald, performing with her at such prestigious orchestras and venues including The New York Philharmonic, Boston Pops at Tanglewood, Philadelphia Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, National Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra at Blossom, Cincinnati Pops, Chicago Symphony at Ravinia, Los Angeles Opera, Carnegie Hall, Walt Disney Concert Hall, and more. He has twice led the New York Philharmonic conducting for Audra McDonald and Chris Botti, respectively.

Recording credits include Audra McDonald's *Sing Happy* with the New York Philharmonic, *Oklahoma* (2019 revival, executive producer, Grammy nomination), *Carousel* featuring Renée Fleming (executive producer, Grammy nomination), *Hello Dolly!* featuring Bette Midler (Grammy nomination), *Bullets Over Broadway*, *Cinderella*, *Evita*, *Sondheim on Sondheim* (Grammy nomination), *Stage Door Canteen*, and McDonald's "Go Back Home." He served as the music director



## MEET THE ARTISTS

for HBO's Peabody Award winning documentary "Six by Sondheim" and music supervisor for Great Performances Peabody Award winning special "Broadway Musicals: A Jewish Legacy" on PBS.

Andy Einhorn is an honors graduate of Rice University in Houston, Texas.

**MICHAEL URIE** The first Broadway show Michael ever saw was *Ragtime* with Audra McDonald and he has made it his mission to see her every chance he got. Needless to say, when invited to return to New York City Center as the sole live audience member of their digital 2020 Gala starring the incomparable Audra, he was honored and thrilled. She is a magnificent talent, and New York City Center is a magnificent place.

Urie made his City Center Encores! debut in the 2019 production of *High Button Shoes*.

**SCOTT LEHRER** (*Sound Design*) received the first Tony awarded to sound for the Lincoln Center Theater revival of *South Pacific*. Recent theatre work includes *King Lear*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Richard Nelson's *The Michaels*, *Illyria*, *Gabriel Family Plays* at The Public Theater, *Hello, Dolly!*, *The Front Page*, *Chicago*, *Shuffle Along*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Dames at Sea*, *The King and I*, *Living on Love*, *Honeymoon in Vegas*, *A Delicate Balance*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Lucky Guy*, *Chaplin* (Drama Desk Award), and Mike Nichols' productions of *Death of a Salesman* and *Betrayal*. He has also designed over 50 New York City Center Encores!. Recording projects include the Broadway cast recording of *An American in Paris* (Grammy nomination), Loudon Wainwright III's Grammy-winning *High Wide & Handsome*, Bebe Neuwirth's *Porcelain*, and Meredith Monk's *Mercy*. A graduate of Sarah Lawrence College, he was faculty at Bennington College from 2001 until 2013 and now teaches at Hunter College.

**JEN SCHRIEVER** (Lighting Designer). Broadway: *Grand Horizons*, *What the Constitution Means to Me*, *The Lifespan of a Fact*, *Eclipsed*, *Ghetto Klown*. Off-Broadway: *Power Strip* (LCT 3), *A Strange Loop* (Playwrights Horizons); *Superhero* (2ST); *Thom Pain*, *Night is a Room* (Signature Theatre); *Collective Rage*, *School Girls...* (MCC); *Usual Girls*, *Bobbie Clearly*, *On the Exhale* (Roundabout); *Dan Cody's Yacht*, *In the Body of the World* (MTC); *The Amateurs* (Vineyard); *Strange Interlude* (Transport Group); *The Moors* (Playwrights Realm); *Eclipsed*, *ToasT*, and *A Second Chance* (The Public Theater). Tour: Current *Blue Man Group* National. Opera: *Die Fledermaus*, *Pearl Fishers* (Metropolitan Opera); *Faust*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *La Traviata* (Mariinsky, Russia); and *The Pearl Fishers* (English National Opera). [jenschriever.com](http://jenschriever.com)

**CODY RENARD RICHARD** (*Associate Producer and Production Stage Manager*) is an educator, advocate, and stage manager. Broadway: 12 productions. City Center: 5 productions. TV: VMAs, Tony Awards, *Jesus Christ Superstar Live!*, *Hairspray Live!*, *The Wiz Live!*. In addition to his production credits, he has worked as adjunct faculty at Fordham University and NYU. Renard has been featured by CNN, *Forbes*, *Variety Magazine*, and *Out Magazine* as this year's 2020 OUT100 honorees. He is also the founder of the CRR Scholarship Program. [codyrenard.com](http://codyrenard.com) @codyrenard

**NEL SHELBY/NEL SHELBY PRODUCTIONS** documents performances, produces livestreams and virtual programs, and creates marketing videos and documentary films to support the dance community. Nel Shelby is the Producer/Director of NY Emmy-nominated documentary *PS DANCE!* and Video Producer for Jacob's Pillow and Vail Dance Festival.

View Nel Shelby's work at [nelshelby.com](http://nelshelby.com) and follow her on Instagram at @nelshelby.



## MEET THE ARTISTS

**NEW YORK CITY CENTER** has played a defining role in the cultural life of the city since 1943 when it was founded by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia with the mission to make the best in the performing arts accessible to all. The distinctive neo-Moorish theater welcomes 300,000 visitors annually 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. For over 25 years, the treasured, Tony-honored Encores! series has given new life to the American musical theater canon, complemented in recent years by the Encores! Off-Center series, which brings today's innovative artists into contact with groundbreaking musicals from the more recent past. Dance continues to be an integral part of the institution's mission through programs like the annual Fall for Dance Festival, which exposes new audiences to an international array of artists by offering subsidized tickets. Through its robust education and community programs, City Center brings the performing arts to over 11,000 New York City students, teachers, and families each year and activates all areas of the building with talks, master classes, art exhibitions, and intimate performances that provide audiences an up-close look at the work of the great theater and dance artists of our time.

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### SPECIAL STAFF FOR An Evening with Audra McDonald

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 Makeup for Ms. McDonald .....Jill Oshry  
 Hair and Makeup for Ms. Shuler..... Elionora Yunayey  
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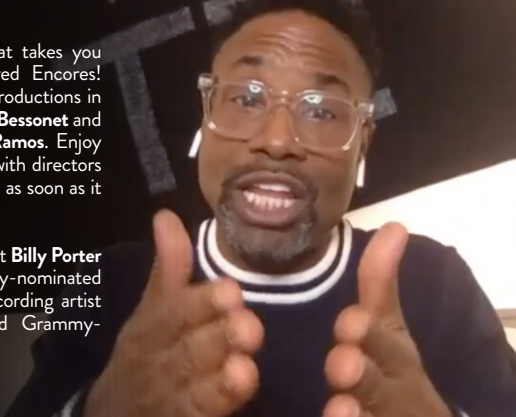
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