



THE SHELDON
CONCERT HALL & ART GALLERIES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 14, 2013

THE FRIENDS OF THE SHELDON PRESENT AUDRA MCDONALD

ST. LOUIS – The Friends of the Sheldon present award-winning vocalist, Audra McDonald, November 15 at 8 p.m. in the perfect acoustics of the Sheldon Concert Hall. This benefit event is co-chaired by Maurice and Edna Mae Graham, and honorary chair Mike Isaacson. Proceeds from this special evening benefit Sheldon Educational Programs, which serve over 20,000 St. Louis area students each year. Audra McDonald is unparalleled in the breadth and versatility of her artistry as both singer and actress. With her luminous soprano voice, McDonald is equally at home on Broadway and opera stages as in roles on film and television.

Born into a musical family, McDonald grew up in Fresno, California and received her classical vocal training at the Juilliard School. Within one year of graduation, McDonald was awarded her first Tony Award, for *Carousel* at Lincoln Center. She went on to win four more Tonys, including her fifth, and her first in the leading actress category, for her role in *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*. She has also earned two Grammy Awards, and a long list of other accolades including four Drama Desk Awards, three Outer Critics Circle Awards, four NAACP Image Awards nominations and an Ovation Award.

In addition to her theatrical work, she maintains a major career as a concert and recording artist, regularly appearing on the great stages of the world in opera productions and with major symphony orchestras such as the Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, New York Philharmonic and San Francisco Symphony. She is familiar to television audiences for her recurring roles in shows such as *Law and Order: Special Victims Unit* and *Private Practice*.

Her latest album, *Go Back Home*, marks her first solo recording in seven years, and features music by Rodgers and Hammerstein, Kander and Ebb, and Stephen Sondheim, as well as emerging composers such as Adam Gwon, Heisler and Goldrich, and Will Reynolds.

Patron tickets are on sale now at \$150 and \$125 and include preferred seating, complimentary parking, a post-concert reception and a tax deduction. For patron tickets and more information, call The Sheldon's Development Department 314.533.9900.

Concert-only tickets are \$50 orchestra/\$45 balcony, and are on sale now through MetroTix at 314-534-1111, through The Sheldon's website at TheSheldon.org, or in person at The Fox Theatre Box Office, 534 N. Grand Blvd. For more information, call The Sheldon at 314-533-9900 or visit TheSheldon.org.

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Sponsored by Worldwide Technology Foundation, The Steward Family Foundation, Maurice and Edna Mae Graham, Mike Isaacson and Joe Ortmeier, and Sally and Harry Johnston

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