

MEDIA ADVISORY
NEWS/CALENDAR
For Immediate Release

CUTTING-EDGE HOLOGRAPHY BRINGS OPERA LEGEND MARIA CALLAS BACK TO LIFE FOR JORGENSEN CONCERT

**Performance, Thurs, Nov 8, 2018 at 7:30 pm at Jorgensen Center for the
Performing Arts
Concert Talk at 6:45 pm**

Panel Discussion, Wed, Nov 7, 4:30-6:00 pm
UConn Humanities Room in the Babbidge Library (No charge)

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****INTERVIEWS AND PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

Storrs, CT – On Thursday evening, **November 8**, audience members at **UConn’s Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts** will be among the first in the nation to witness the return of opera legend **Maria Callas** to the performance stage 40 years after her passing - a feat made possible through the use of extraordinary theatrical stagecraft and breathtaking state-of-the-art digital and laser projection techniques developed by the show’s creator, **BASE Hologram in Los Angeles**.

The groundbreaking **“Callas in Concert” tour**, which feature a live **60-piece symphony orchestra**, will be directed by The Juilliard School’s Stephen Wadsworth (*Masterclass*), a veteran of many of Callas’ theaters, including La Scala, the Met, Covent Garden, and conducted by Constantine Kitsopoulos, (Baz Luhrmann’s *La Bohème*, Matthew Bourne’s *Swan Lake*). The concert program will include arias by Rossini, Gounod, Verdi, Bizet, Puccini, Bellini, and more.

In order to create a believable moving **holographic image of the iconic superstar soprano**, director Wadsworth says he had to recreate the singer from scratch by finding a body double and then training her how to perform each song as Callas would perform it. The performance was then videotaped and computer enhanced, and a computer-generated face was superimposed on images of the performing body double. The company’s audio engineers then had to strip out and digitally enhance the original vocals and remove the sound of the orchestra

from Callas's 1960 recordings, so a live orchestra could accompany the singing Callas hologram during the stage performance.

"The work was time-consuming and expensive, but judging from initial reaction it was definitely worth the effort," says Wadsworth. "We were able to recreate Ms. Callas down to the minutest movements of her hands and the subtlest facial gestures. This enables everyone to experience the legendary talent and emotional force that was and is Maria Callas."

A 6:45 pm Concert Talk will precede the **Thursday, November 8, 7:30 pm** concert. Doors to the hall will open at 7:00 pm.

Expert Panel Discussion

A 90-minute panel discussion, *Why don't we die in the digital age?: a dialogue about technology, bodies, death, holograms, and Maria Callas* will take place at 4:30 pm on **Wednesday, November 7**, in the UConn Humanities Room in the Babbidge Library (No admission fee, followed by a reception). Expert speakers include **Joseph Auner**, Austin Fletcher Professor of Music and Dean of Academic Affairs for Arts and Sciences at Tufts University; **Evan Selinger**, Professor of Philosophy at Rochester Institute of Technology and Senior Fellow of the Future of Privacy Forum; and **Gary Shoefeld**, Executive Vice President of Content Development at Base Entertainment. **Heather Elliott-Famularo**, Donna Krenicki Professor of Design and Digital Media and Head of Department of Digital Media and Design at UConn, will moderate the panel.

For more information about the artist or holographic concert production please visit:

- <https://callasinconcert.com/>
- <https://basehologram.com/>

Jorgensen presents 30 to 40 diverse performances each season, from nationally and internationally acclaimed artists and ensembles ranging from classical music to world music and dance, classical ballet and contemporary dance, comedy, family programming and contemporary entertainment.

Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts is located at 2132 Hillside Road on the UConn campus in Storrs. *Callas in Concert* tickets are now available online: \$35-45, with some discounts available.

For tickets and information, go to jorgensen.uconn.edu, or call the Box Office at 860.486.4226, Monday - Friday, 10 am - 5 pm, and 90 minutes prior to events. Convenient \$5 event parking is available in the North Garage. Free parking is available in Lots N (formerly 9), F, and L. For a detailed parking map, go to park.uconn.edu.

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