

NEWS/CALENDAR
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LEGENDARY SOPRANO KATHLEEN BATTLE ACCOMPANIED BY PIANIST JOEL MARTIN BRINGS “UNDERGROUND RAILROAD: A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY” TO JORGENSEN

Fri, Oct 26, 2018 at 8 pm

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Renee Fournier
Interim Marketing Director
JORGENSEN Center for the Performing Arts
University of Connecticut – Storrs CT
Phone: 860-486-5507
Email: renee.fournier@uconn.edu

****INTERVIEWS AND PHOTOS UPON REQUEST**

STORRS, CT – With a voice lauded by *The Washington Post* as “...without qualification, one of the very few most beautiful in the world”, five-time Grammy-winning opera legend Kathleen Battle is joined on the Jorgensen concert stage Friday evening, October 26 by acclaimed pianist Joel A. Martin and the Voices of the Underground Railroad choir for a presentation of “Underground Railroad: A Spiritual Journey”, an emotionally powerful collection of stories and spirituals inspired by the secret network that helped bring an estimated 25 to 40 thousand African-American slaves to freedom in the early to mid-19th century.

On Ms. Battle’s inspirational program will be such moving classics as “Lord, How Come Me Here”, “Wade in the Water”, “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”, “Go Down Moses”, and many others, interspersed with narration drawn from the timeless writings of Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and other civil rights giants. Doors open at 7:30 pm. Concert begins at 8:00 pm.

For additional information about the artist please visit <http://columbia-artists.com/?webid=27>.

The concert will be preceded by a reception at 6:00 pm for artist Kamar Thomas for his Jorgensen Gallery Exhibit [MYTH: Paintings by Kamar Thomas, MFA '16](#).

Both the concert and artist reception are co-sponsored by the H. Fred Simons African American Cultural Center (AACC), celebrating 50 years at the University of Connecticut this year. To commemorate this landmark achievement the UConn School of Fine Arts is presenting a series of events during the 2018-2019 academic year. As part of this

celebration, Jorgensen will present several events dedicated to the African Diaspora throughout the 2018-2019 season. Please visit sfa.uconn.edu/african-diaspora for details.

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. Tickets for Kathleen Battle are available online: \$35 - \$45, with some discounts available. There is no charge for admittance to the Kamar Thomas Gallery Exhibit.

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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