

UC SANTA BARBARA

# THE *Current*

May 9, 2018

Suzanna Ackroyd

## **Audra McDonald**

A luminous soprano, Audra McDonald's breadth and versatility is unparalleled. With "a voice that will make you believe in angels" (Tribune News Service), she is radiant on Broadway and the world's great opera stages as well as in film and television. McDonald was a three-time Tony Award winner by age 28, and her 2014 performance as Billie Holiday in *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* earned her a sixth Tony award and made her the first person to win all four acting categories. McDonald recently shone as part of the star-studded cast in the live-action twist on Disney's timeless classic *Beauty and the Beast*. She has been named one of Time magazine's 100 most influential people and received a National Medal of Arts. Backed by a superb trio of musicians, McDonald presents her trademark mix of show tunes, classic songs from movies and pieces written expressly for her by leading contemporary composers.

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### **About UC Santa Barbara**

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the edge of the Pacific Ocean.