



"Barbra gave such weight to the special," says Bublé (with Streisand).

# Pop the Bublé!

MICHAEL BUBLÉ'S CHRISTMAS IN NEW YORK 8/7c, NBC

MICHAEL BUBLÉ RETURNS to NBC tonight for his fourth Christmas special, and this year he's cooked up an entrance—inspired by Billy Crystal's Oscar intros—that throws him into a jumble of some of his favorite Yuletide flicks, including *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Elf*, and *A Christmas Story*. We talked to the Canadian crooner about getting caught up in the holiday spirit. —Emily Maas

**This is your first special at Radio City Music Hall, and it's also your biggest one by far. Barbra Streisand even joins you on stage.** It's the first time in, I believe, over 43 years she's done anything like this. When she asked me to sing with her on her record [*Partners*], I made her wait a tenth of a second before I said yes. But the truth is, I never had the time to really be with her—just us. So the fact that she liked me enough and cared for me enough to come and support me on this television program, it meant a lot to me.

**What do you sing with her?** [Barbra and I] wrote a Christmas version of "It Had to Be

You." [Performing with her] was one of the great moments of my career.

**What other guests do you have?** Ariana Grande. It was fun for me to watch my band and my crew get blown away when she opened her mouth. The Rockettes were kind enough to help me with this wonderful, huge opening as well. And Miss Piggy, who, I'll be honest, was a diva. [*Laughs*]

**You also have a new Unplugged segment this year: Fans requested songs via social media that you and your quartet performed on the spot. How did that turn out?** I've always said, if you want to prove that you can sing, then don't hide behind production. Be out there and let your voice do the work. My quartet was swinging like crazy. We had not rehearsed. But it's real.

**Does doing these specials ever put you in the mood to record a follow-up to your 2011 holiday album, *Christmas*?** No. Never again. Four years ago, when I sat down to make that, I'd wanted my whole life to make *the* Christmas record. I think I did, and I won't do it again.

## Survivor

### Season finale

**8/7c, CBS** The torch is snuffed out on the latest edition of *Blood vs. Water*, and somebody's going home with a million-dollar check. Still, expect the family feuding to continue during the live reunion show that follows.

## The Sing-Off

### Season premiere

**9/8c, NBC** The a cappella competition returns with six new groups taking center stage and competing for a \$50,000 grand prize. The judging panel gets a shot of rock as Fall Out Boy frontman Patrick Stump joins Jewel and Shawn Stockman.

## American Horror Story: Freak Show

**10/9c, FX** We smell a flashback! Elsa reveals exactly how her Cabinet of Curiosities came to be. And while she goes on and on, Pepper goes off the rails following the death of another freak.

## Kitchen Inferno

**10/9c, Food Network** Curtis Stone's cooking competition/game show sweetens the deal with a series of chocolate challenges that dare his fellow cooks to try to out-confection him for cash. Don't fudge this up, folks.

## SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

### College Basketball

**7/6c, ESPN2** Tennessee at North Carolina State

### NBA Basketball

**8/7c, ESPN** Nets at Raptors

### NHL Hockey

**8/7c, NBCSN** Bruins at Wild

### College Basketball

**9/8c, ESPN2** San Diego at Cincinnati

### NBA Basketball

**10:30/9:30c, ESPN** Rockets at Nuggets