

Daily

Life

ROUNDTABLE

WHO WILL BE THE NEXT FACE OF UCONNIC?

IT'S OFFICIAL — UCONNIC IS UPON US! NOW THAT SUBOG CONCERTS HAS BEGUN PROMOTING THE NIGHT ON THEIR INSTAGRAM, AND AFTER THE RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF MALCOLM TODD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE UCONNIC HEADLINER IS ANNOUNCED. PREVIOUS FACES HAVE INCLUDED ROSS LYNCH, SWAE LEE AND FLIPP DINERO, BUT WHO WILL BE THE NEXT HEADLINER?

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I have noticed a few trends when it comes to UCONNIC Headliners; being that they are typically smaller rappers or indie musicians (with the exception of Ross Lynch last year). This year, with the recent breakthrough of so many smaller artists, it is hard to come up with a confident prediction for who the performer will be.
Two predictions from @storsschicks on Instagram specifically caught my eye: Malcom Todd and René Rapp.
Todd blew up a few years ago on Tik Tok and is known for his Mac Demarco meets Steve Lacy indie-bedroom pop sound. One of his most popular songs is “Roommates” from 2020 — what better song is there to perform at a college campus? “Chest Pain” is also incredibly popular, and I don’t doubt that would be on his setlist.
Rapp, on the other hand, most famous for her Broadway role as Regina George in “Mean Girls” and appearance on “The Sex Lives of College Girls,” recently became a pop diva. My guess is that she would perform songs like “Leave Me Alone” and “I Think I Like You Better When You’re Gone” from her 2025 sophomore album “Bite Me.”

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After last year’s success of The Driver Era (featuring former “Austin & Ally” star Ross Lynch), it’s not hard to read the tea leaves and figure out who SUBOG is targeting this year.
Last year’s choice was clearly a litmus test to see how UConn students would respond to a former Disney star before committing the big bucks to an even bigger celebrity
Forget Sabrina Carpenter, Olivia Rodrigo or even older stars Demi Lovato and Selena Gomez. What UCONNIC needs is Dove Cameron. The former “Liv and Maddie” lead is still at the level where UCONNIC could make sense but is famous enough that she would be an upgrade over the past few artists.

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As a second semester student, I’m not very familiar with UCONNIC and what artists are chosen to perform there. However, if I were to make a prediction on who’s going to perform at UCONNIC this year, I would base it on current music trends and interests within the UConn community.
One trend that’s currently prevalent on campus is the 2016 theme. I’ve read articles that talk about people being nostalgic of that year, so I wouldn’t be surprised if an artist who was famous in that year will perform at UCONNIC. Some notable artists from that year are the Weeknd and Drake. If the Weeknd is selected to perform, he might sing some of his hits from 2016, including “Star Boy (feat. Draft Punk)” and “Die for You.” If Drake is chosen to perform, then he might sing some songs from his 2016 album, “Views.” A few songs he might choose could be “One Dance (feat. Wizkid & Kyla)” and “Control.”
The 2016 theme is ubiquitous on campus, but I’ve heard students talk about albums that were released within the past few years. One album I heard is “The Life of a Showgirl” by Taylor Swift, so it’s possible that Swift could be chosen to perform at UCONNIC. If she’s chosen, then she might play songs from “The Life of a Showgirl,” including “The Fate of Ophelia” and “Opalite.”

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The Top 5 Roller Coasters in New England for 2026

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March has arrived, which means we get college basketball, warmer temperatures and spring break. Some head south for spring break but those who stay in New England prepare for the warmer weather — which means amusement park season begins.
New England has a solid collection of parks and, more specifically, rollercoasters. While we wait for everything to defrost, it’s the perfect time to count down the top five rollercoasters in New England heading into 2026

No. 5: Phobia Phear Coaster — Lake Compounce
Our first coaster on the list comes from Lake Compounce in Bristol, Conn. New England’s only operating launch coaster, Phobia Phear Coaster. Opened in 2016, Phobia Phear Coaster is a Premier Rides “Sky Rocket II.” It’s one of only 10 Sky Rocket IIs in the world, with the next closest Sky Rocket II being Tempesto at Busch Gardens Williamsburg in Virginia.
Phobia has one inversion and reaches a top speed of 62 mph. What makes Phobia great is its swing launch: starting backwards is a great sensation, alongside the airtime you get when you reach the top and the way you almost crawl through the inline twist.

No. 4: Wildcat — Lake Compounce
For number four on the list we go about 500 feet away to Wildcat, also at Lake Compounce. Wildcat is entering its 99th season this year. For such an old ride, it’s amazing it still runs so well. The coaster actually struggled for a time, with some even calling it one of the worst and most unpleasant coasters in the world. However, the ride was closed in 2023 for the entire season so it could be retracked by the manufacturing company Gravity Group. The company installed their gravity grid patented pre-cut vertically stacked track. It reopened in 2024 almost completely retracked.
Following the 2024 season, Gravity Group finished their retracking and today, the coaster is smooth as glass. A perfect coaster for the whole family, once they reach that 48 inch height requirement, of course!

No. 3: Superman the Ride — Six Flags New England
For number three we head north to Agawam, Mass. for Six Flags New England. Su-

perman the Ride has been a coaster marvel since its creation in 2000. Made by the Swiss rollercoaster manufacturing company Intamin, Superman has racked up many accolades over the years. It has won the Amusement Today Golden Ticket Award for “Best Steel Roller Coaster” five times, most recently in 2009.
Superman has a height of 208 feet and reaches 77 mph, making it the fastest coaster in New England. Superman is a great ride packed with great elements and speed. The only downside is uncomfortability of the restraints. If they changed the restraints, it would most likely top the list to be the best roller coaster in New England.

No. 2: Boulder Dash — Lake Compounce
For number two we are heading back to Bristol, Conn. for Boulder Dash at Lake Compounce, a wooden coaster marvel built in 2000 alongside a mountain. Boulder Dash has had its fair share of awards winning Amusement Today Golden Ticket Award for “Best Wood Roller Coaster” five separate times, most recently in 2016.
Boulder Dash has seen some criticism for being too rough in the last few years, but similarly to Wildcat, the company Gravity Group has come in to re-track it. The difference is they’ve added their patented “Titan Track” which adds steel to wooden roller coasters. Boulder Dash is a one-of-a-kind rollercoaster that runs alongside a mountain and reaches 60 mph. A night ride on Boulder Dash is an absolute must!

No. 1: Wicked Cyclone — Six Flags New England
Finally our number one coaster is Wicked Cyclone at Six Flags New England, a hybrid roller coaster manufactured by Rocky Mountain Construction. The original Cyclone closed in 2014 and was converted to Wicked Cyclone and opened up the following year. The conversion turned the fully wooden Cyclone into the steel-wood hybrid coaster we have today.
Wicked Cyclone is not the tallest or fastest, but it packs a punch with all its elements. It stands 109 feet tall and reaches 55 mph, all while navigating three inversions. A perfect glass-smooth experience, Wicked Cyclone is the best roller coaster in New England.



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