

University of Vermont Lane Series, 392 South Prospect Street, Burlington, VT 05405

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**UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT LANE SERIES CELEBRATES 70TH ANNIVERSARY:**

**LIVE SINCE 1955!**

This year, the University of Vermont Lane Series celebrates 70 years of live performance with a gala season of artists and events. To launch this special year, on **Tuesday, September 16**, all are welcome to the hall to attend a **free** **season preview** with music, video, and a short talk about the history of the UVM Lane Series. Refreshments will be served in the lobby, and attendees will have the opportunity to buy tickets to upcoming shows. Snacks and socializing at 6:00, talk and discussion from 6:30 – 7:30.

**The 70th anniversary** opens on September 19th with the bronze medalist of the 2025 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, Evren Ozel; the silver and gold winners are slated for the spring. This multinational series continues with artists from Japan (Yumi Kurosawa Trio), Cuba (Alex Cuba), Germany (the Aris Quartett), and Denmark (Dreamers’ Circus). Other performances include Newgrass all-stars Sam Reider & the Human Hands, featuring Sam’s new composition based on the Golem of Jewish folklore; world-renowned interpreter of Weimar Cabaret, stage- and screen- star Ute Lemper, celebrating the works of Kurt Weill; flutist and composer Valerie Coleman and her ensemble, performing *Reverie: Dreams of Harlem and Paris*; Jerron Paxton and Dennis Lichtman, exploring the treasured forms of Black American folk, jazz, ragtime, and blues; and a beautiful vocal holiday concert, “Songs for Midwinter”, with a cappella traditional singers Kongero and Windborne.

**The History:** In 1954, Mrs. Nellie Lane donated $317,000 in stock and securities to the University of Vermont to honor her late husband, George Bishop Lane, UVM class of 1883.  She gave the university three choices of projects to which it could apply the gift: a reading room in the library, an organ for Ira Allen Chapel, or a concert series. UVM chose the concert series and in October 1955, the Lane Series was launched with a performance by the Canadian Players of George Bernard Shaw’s *St. Joan.*

Today, our cultural landscape is rich in live touring performance, but things were different in 1955. Touring music, dance, and drama were just beginning to take off in the United States. Most cultural institutions presented their own artists, with large cities having symphony orchestras, dance and theater companies, etc. The Lane Series and other early presenters of touring artists worked with record companies, agents, impresarios like Sol Hurok, and the artists themselves to create regional tours that would bring exceptional performances to smaller communities.

The UVM Lane Series started right at the beginning of the touring arts industry and were one of the earliest university presenters in the United States. Under the supervision of the first director, Professor Jack Trevithick, and a board of students and administrators, Lane brought a slate of stellar artists to Burlington. The Lane Series made a name for itself by presenting an array of entertainment genres; jazz, theater, lectures, poetry readings, mime, classical, pop, folk, world music, film series, and dance were all represented, establishing the eclectic programming for the next seventy years.

**An incredible roster of performers:** Some of the artists Lane brought to Burlington over their 70 years include the London Symphony Orchestra, Sir John Gielgud, Simon and Garfunkel (whose recording of the Everly Brothers *Bye Bye Love* on *Bridge over Troubled Waters* was recorded at a Lane Series concert), Mahalia Jackson, Ravi Shankar, Gordon Lightfoot, the Martha Graham Dance Company, Joan Baez, Van Cliburn, The Ike and Tina Turner Review, Duke Ellington Orchestra and many more significant artists of 20th century performance. And because the Lane Series started before Burlington had a real concert venue – the Flynn, a former Vaudeville house, was a movie theatre at the time – all these performances happened at Memorial Auditorium or occasionally the Ira Allen Chapel. In their research, current Lane Series staff were delighted to find see that children could attend a Lane Series concert matinee with Joan Baez for 50₵ in 1965. (That same season also included performances by Harry Belafonte, Isaac Stern, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and Rudoph Serkin). Current Lane Series Director Natalie Neuert notes, “It is hard to fathom. How is it even possible that this tiny music series, in a small corner of the US, has presented so many luminaries of 20th century performance, and is still doing it?” For a full list of Lane Series concerts going back to 1955, please visit [our show archives](https://www.uvm.edu/laneseries/lane-series-show-archives).

**Community:** The Lane Series is planning parties, receptions, displays, and special events to celebrate the 70th anniversary, so it is a great opportunity to join the friendly and welcoming community of music lovers that come each Friday to the UVM Recital Hall for unforgettable concerts

**Onward:** In its 70-year history, the Lane Series has had only four directors, all of whom have shaped the programming to keep it relevant, exciting, and in service of a dual mission of entertainment and education. The first two directors, Jack Trevithick and Terrance Demas, were programming for a big hall – Memorial Auditorium held 3,000 patrons – and had little competition from other cultural organizations to consider. UVM music professor and professional baroque flutist Jane Ambrose brought the series back to campus and focused programming in the relatively small, 300 seat, UVM Recital Hall, built in 1974. Her extensive knowledge and connections in the worlds of classical and early music cultivated a dedicated audience for those genres and increased the national reputation of the Lane Series as a presenter of world-class chamber music.

Current director Natalie Neuert has continued Dr. Ambrose’s highlighting of the pin-drop acoustics and intimate, listening-room atmosphere of the UVM Recital Hall, which truly deserves its reputation as one of the great acoustic spaces in New England. But Neuert has also expanded the scope of the programming to return world, contemporary, folk, jazz, blues, and bluegrass to the series.

The UVM Lane Series is proud of its history and is excited to continue its venerable legacy for the next seventy years and beyond.

For more information and ticketing, visit [www.uvm.edu/laneseries](http://www.uvm.edu/laneseries).

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