



LANE

SINCE 1955

The background features a solid orange-red color with three vertical stripes of a darker shade. On the left and right sides, there are large, dark, curved shapes that resemble stylized architectural elements or abstract forms. The text is centered and reads:

LIVE
SINCE
1955

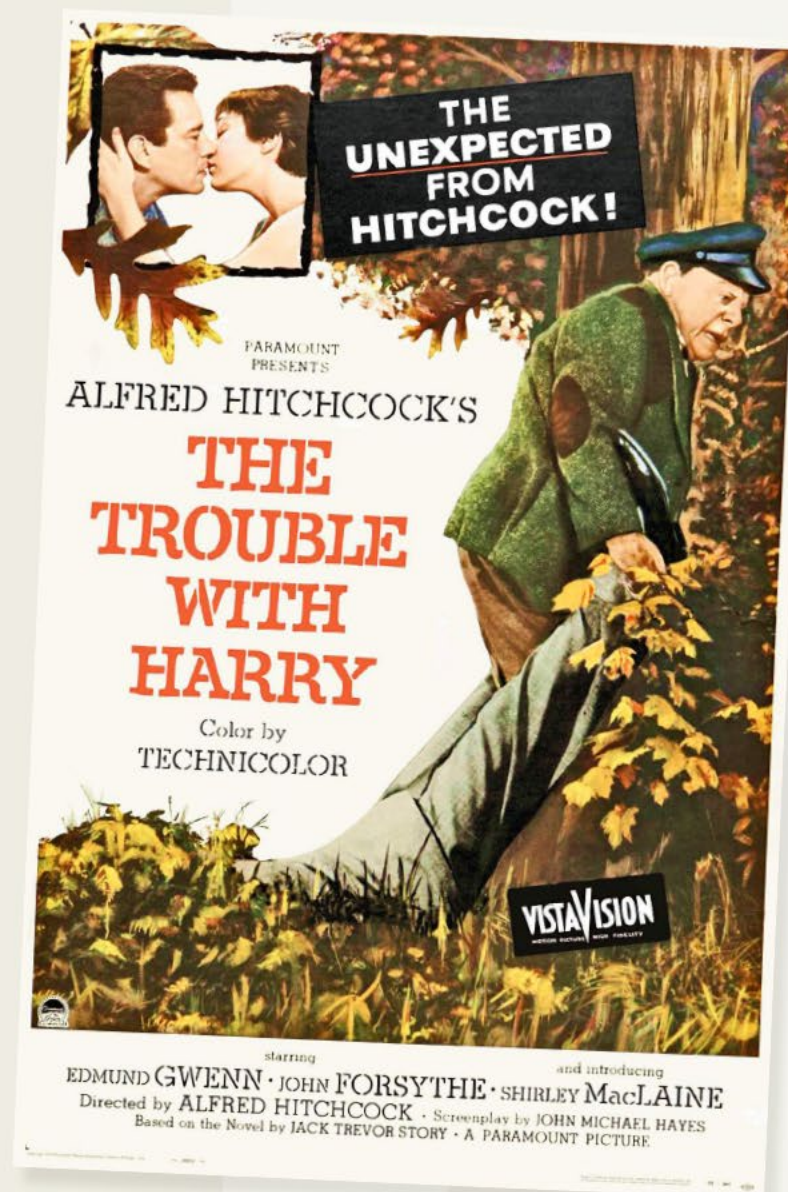
IN 1955...



- UVM enrolled 2,861 students, 1,290 residents of Vermont
- There was no Recital Hall
- There was no Interstate 89 or 91
- Our first TV station, WCAX (then WMVT) had just begin broadcasting the year before



- Hitchcock came to Vermont to make the film *The Trouble with Harry*



- You could drive on Church Street!



- The Flynn was a movie theater!



- Corner of College and South Winooski in 1955



Mrs. Nellie Lane and her family decide to honor her husband George Bishop Lane, UVM Class of 1883 and founder of the *Vermont Cynic* who had died in 1953.

The gift was in stock, and its value in 1954 was \$317,452.

Today, that amount would be equivalent to a gift of 4 million dollars.

GIFT
OF
GEORGE BISHOP LANE MEMORIAL FUND
TO
TRUSTEES OF UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND STATE
AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

I, NELLIE S. LANE (Wm. George B. Lane), of Minneapolis, Minnesota, do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell, assign and set over to the Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College, the shares of stock as set forth on Schedule A, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof. I direct that this fund shall be known as the George Bishop Lane Memorial Fund. The said Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College are directed to invest and reinvest the principal and annually to use the income from the said Fund for an "Artists" course or series, so-called, to be termed the George Bishop Lane Artists' Series. This Series should include musical productions and such other theatrical and artistic productions as the Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College shall see fit. Said Series should be open to the students of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College and the public generally; an admission charge must be required of all who attend. If, in any year, the receipts from admissions to said George Bishop Lane Artists' Series should exceed the sum needed to defray the costs of such series, after the application thereto of the income from the George Bishop Lane Memorial Fund, then the Trustees of said University of Vermont and State Agricultural College may use the unexpended income of the Fund for that year as said Board of Trustees, in its sole discretion, shall determine.

Dated at Minneapolis, Minnesota, this 27th day of April, 1954.



Mrs. Lane gave UVM the option of four things to do with the money, based on things her husband enjoyed:

- A reading room in the library
- An organ for Ira Allen Chapel
- A fully furnished hospital room
- A concert series

Because a nascent program series already existed, UVM chose to expand it to become **The George Bishop Lane Series.**





- The original UVM Program Series was the brainchild of UVM student **Jerry Agel**, class of '52
- He presented the idea to Student Government and received a grant of \$400 to bring performers and speakers to Ira Allen Chapel
- He did it all with the help of faculty advisor Sam Bogorad from the English Department, and a student assistant **Barbara Demarest, '53**
- With that \$400, they were able to attract such names as Dylan Thomas, Pearl Primus (and her African Dance Troupe), among others
- The following year, Bobby Demarest became the director and performers/speakers included Charles Laughton and W.H. Auden. Bobby asked **Jack Trevithick**, another English professor, to be her advisor for the '52-'53 season

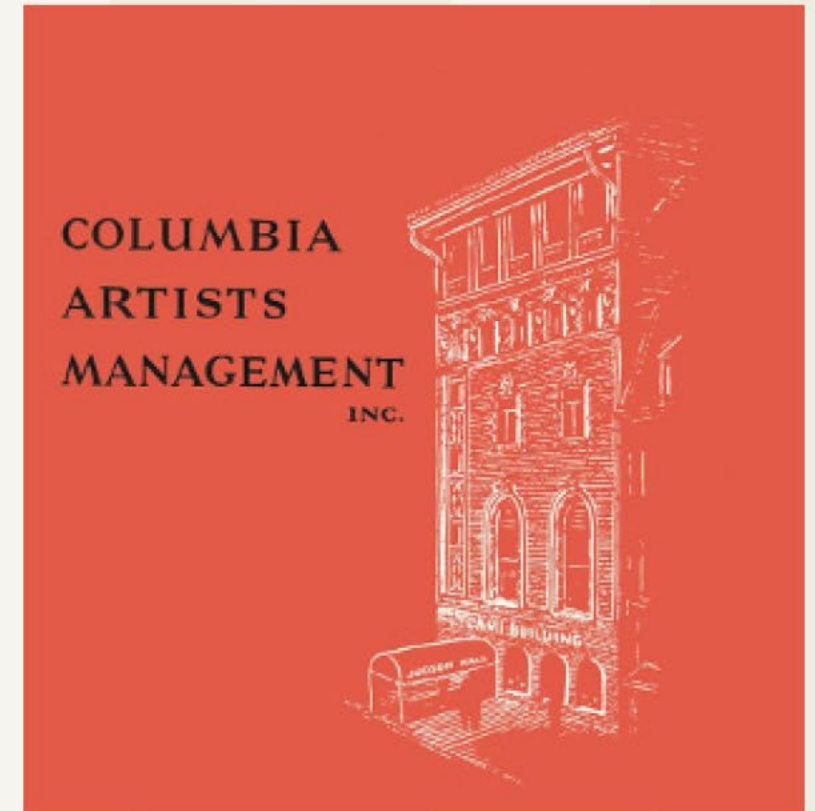


THERE HAVE
ONLY BEEN
**4 LANE SERIES
DIRECTORS
IN 70 YEARS...**



The first was **Jack Trevithick**, Professor of English.

- Lane Director from 1955–1976
- He was working in a brand new business of touring arts
- The world had very little touring live arts as we know it
- Only people who lived in cities had access to:
 - Opera • Symphony Orchestras
 - Ballet • Big bands/jazz/etc.
- Medium sized and large cities had thriving cultural scenes at this time. Large audiences, architectural gems of venues, resident orchestras
- Burlington was NOT one of those cities



How did folks who weren't wealthy, access arts and entertainment in smaller towns and cities before 1950?

- Nightclubs/road houses
- Vaudeville houses
- Dance Halls (Jazz/swing/jitterbug)
- Clubs
- Festivals & gatherings
- Homes: everyone had a piano...



TRIVIA QUESTION:

Does anyone know what the first successful international arts tour that came to the U.S. Was?



ANSWER:

- **Jenny Lind's** tour in 1851
- Swedish Opera singer called "The Swedish Nightingale"
- Promoted by P.T. Barnum the circus promoter
- He paid her \$1,000 a performance for 150 performances in the U.S.
- She insisted on being paid up front
- Barnum was a fantastic promoter who made her a household name in the U.S. before she even got here
- Serious hype for this performance!
He made a lot of money
- This was the Eras tour of its time



Jenny Lind



The Inaugural Lane Series Season: 1955–1956

- The Canadian Players in *St. Joan*
- The Playwright Company in *Tea and Sympathy*
- The London Philharmonic
- Anna Russell, operatic comedian
- Pearl Lang and the Juilliard Quartet
- The Vienna Boys choir
- The VSO with Gina Francescatti

Everything sold out in advance...

Pearl Lang, dancer



That same year Lane instituted a children's series with the Burlington Friends of Music

- also — a summer series at Ira Allen Chapel Chamber Artist Series
- A “New Artist Series” which was cancelled before it began...



Memorial Auditorium:
Home of the early Lane Series



Some notable programs under Jack Trevithick's tenure in the 50s and 60s:

Sir John Gielgud

The Chicago Symphony
Orchestra

National Ballet of Canada

NYCO in *Rigoletto*

Stuttgart Chamber
Orchestra

Isaac Stern, violin

Roberta Peters

Erroll Garner Trio

Benny Goodman

Modern Jazz Quartet

Robert Frost

Diana Ross and
The Supremes

Marcel Marceau

Harry Belafonte

Dave Brubeck

Juilliard Quartet

Victoria de Los Angeles

Joan Baez

Nina Simone

Simon and Garfunkel

Van Cliburn

Odetta

Simon & Garfunkel



How did he do it?

- He had 2,500 seats to sell: even with Lane's reasonable prices — that's a lot of tickets!
- The Lane Endowment went far in those days: it was a lot of money and it enabled UVM to compete in the marketplace
- There was a lot of volunteer labor. Committees of students, faculty, staff, and community volunteers took care of a lot of details
- Artist fees were much lower: artists toured to support their recordings. The tour itself might make them money, but mostly they were trying to build an audience to purchase their recordings

Nina Simone



TRIVIA QUESTION:

What 20 year old Bolivian violinist was scheduled to perform on the New Artist Series in 1960, but had his contract cancelled by the UVM Board of Trustees who didn't feel that he was of a high enough caliber for the Lane Series?



A black and white photograph of violinist Jaime Laredo, shown from the chest up, playing his violin. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a white shirt and a dark bow tie. He is looking down at his instrument with a focused expression. The background is a solid light orange color with large, faint, overlapping circular shapes in a slightly darker shade of orange. The text 'ANSWER:' is positioned to the right of the violinist, and 'Jaime Laredo' is below it. In the bottom right corner, there is a small red logo consisting of several vertical bars of varying heights.

ANSWER:

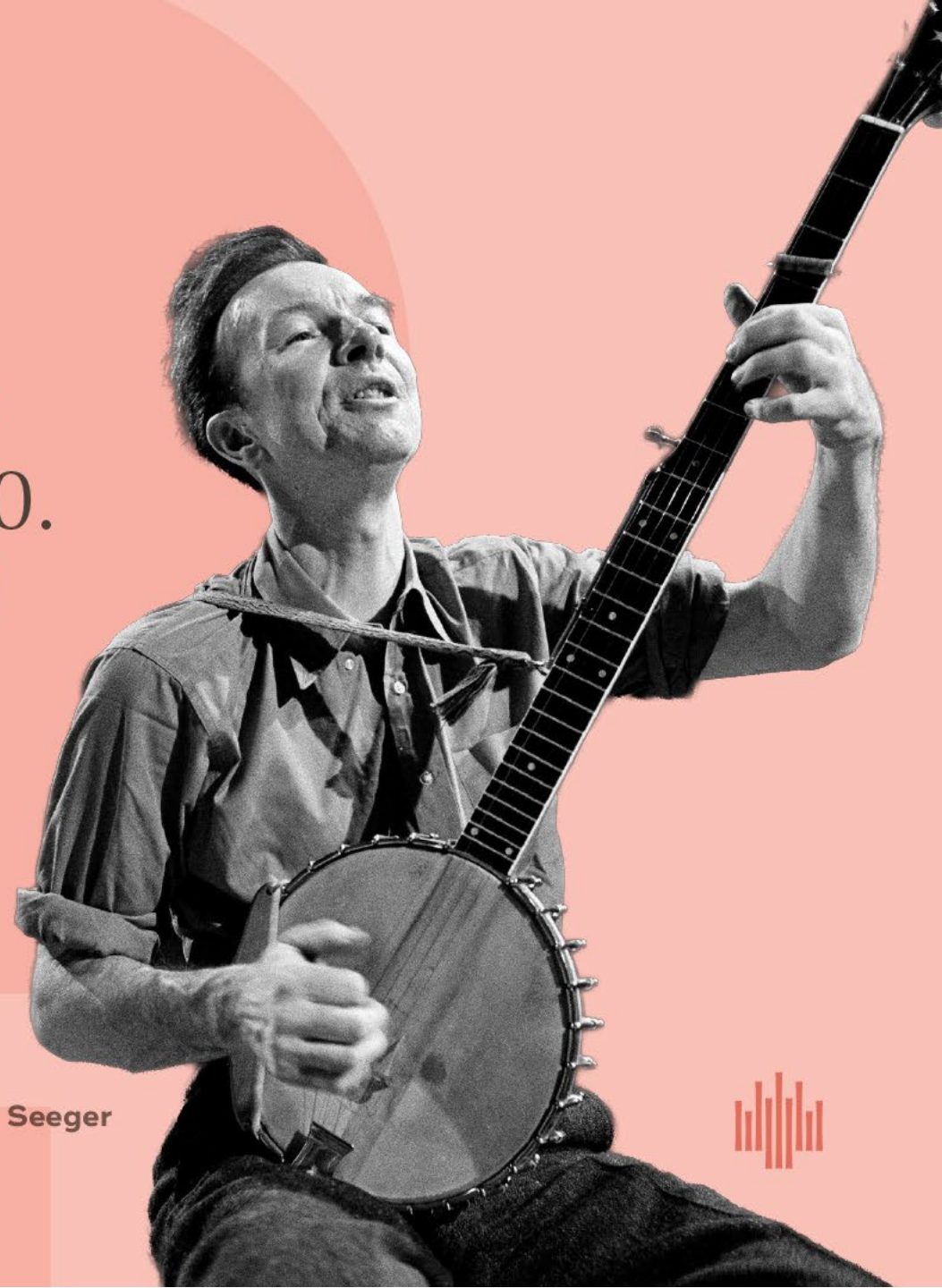
Jaime Laredo



TRIVIA QUESTION:

Pete Seeger first performed on the Lane Series in the summer of 1960. But the year before, he performed with his quartet. What was the name of that ensemble? Can you name any of the other original members of that group?

Pete Seeger



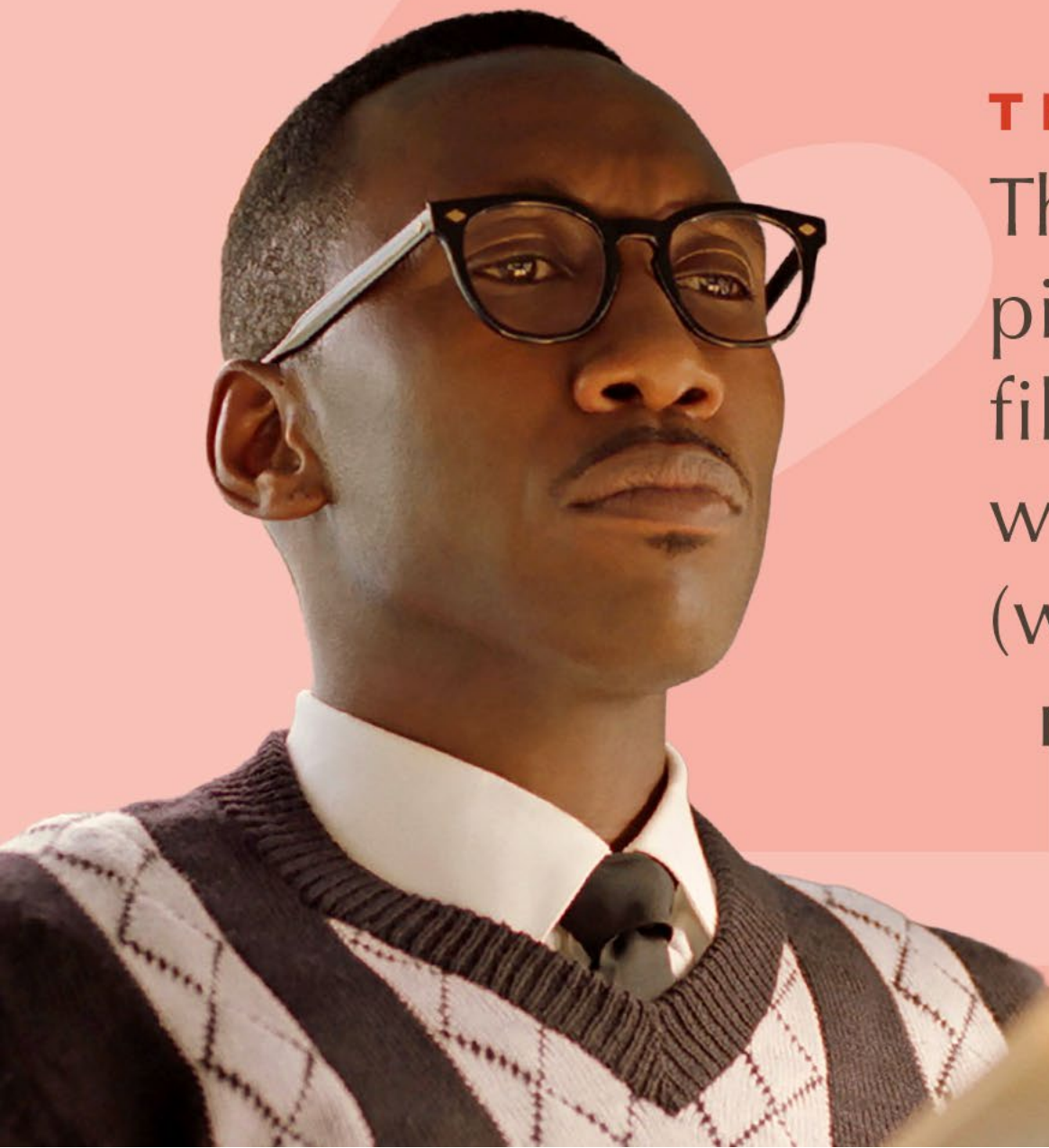
ANSWER:

Seeger was a founding member of The Weavers, which formed in 1948.

Along with Seeger, the original lineup included Ronnie Gilbert, Lee Hays, and Fred Hellerman.

The Weavers





TRIVIA QUESTION:

This brilliant classical and jazz pianist, the subject of the 2018 film *Green Book*, in which he was played by Mahershala Ali, (who won an Oscar for the role) performed on the Lane Series with his trio in 1968.

Mahershala Ali, in *Green Book*



ANSWER:

Don Shirley





THE MID 1970S
BROUGHT
**A NEW DIRECTOR
AND A NEW VENUE**
TO THE LANE SERIES



Terry Demas took over as Lane Director in 1976–1986.

He was a graduate of the UVM Department of Theater, and you can see his interest and love of the stage in the 10 years of his Directorship.

Some of the Tours he brought to Burlington to perform on the Lane Series included:

Noises Off

The Mabou Mines
Theater Company

The Guthrie Theater
of Minneapolis

A Soldier's Play

Torch Song Trilogy

Agnes of God

Crimes of the Heart

The Dresser

Pirates of Penzance

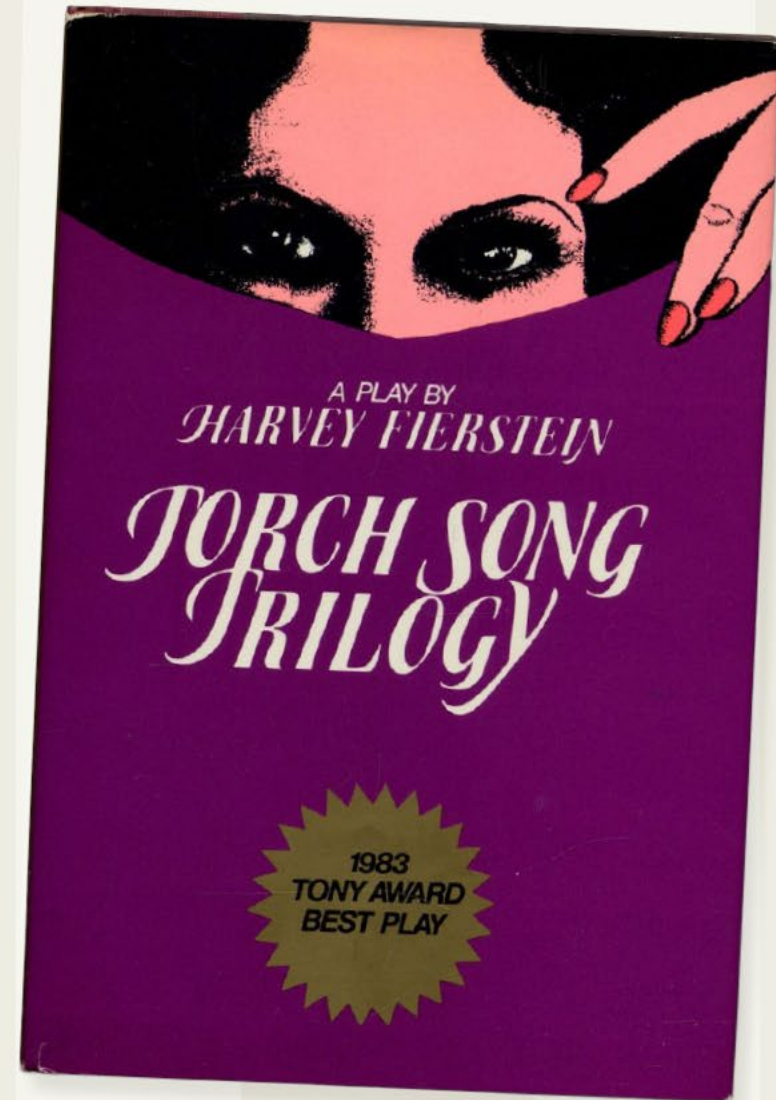
Amadeus

National Theater
of the Deaf

A Chorus Line

School for Scandal

and many more major
professional productions.



Terry also continued the tradition of big multi-genre music, ballet, and opera, including something many patrons remember: the Coldstream Guards and the Royal Scots Guards — who “performed” in Gutterson Gym.



The Coldstream Guards





Some highlights from the 1970s and 1980s:

Muddy Waters, James
Cotton, & John Hammond

Ray Charles

Dizzy Gillespie

Ella Fitzgerald

Chuck Mangione

Pinchas Zuckerman

Count Basie

The Preservation Hall
Jazz Band

Groucho Marx (!)

The Warsaw Philharmonic
with Misha Dichter

Yo-Yo Ma

And he also started a **film series!**

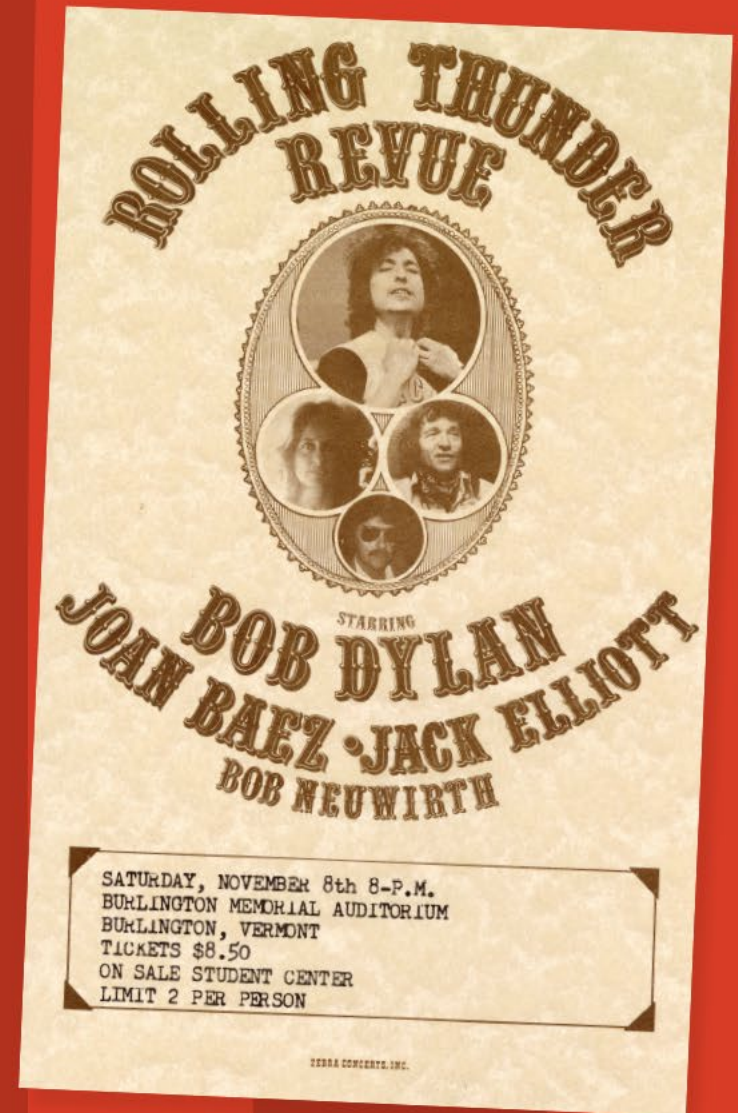
Yo-Yo Ma



“FOR THE TIMES,
THEY ARE A
CHANGING”

—BOB DYLAN

**Dylan's *Rolling Thunder Review*
played at UVM in 1975**



By the 1980s things were changing in the presenting business:

- Fees and tour costs were rising, and famous artists were playing in bigger and bigger halls
- Burlington audiences were getting tired of seeing shows in a gym. Especially now that:
- The Flynn opened in 1982 as a beautifully renovated 1,450 seat concert hall, well-suited to the size of Burlington...
- The Lane Series found itself in a financial meltdown as audiences shifted over to the Flynn. Something needed to change

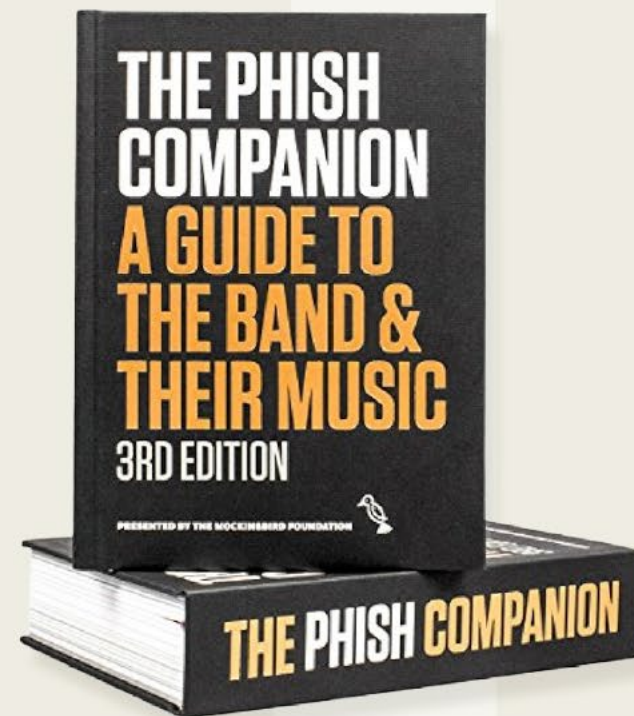
- **Jane Ambrose** was appointed Director in Fall of 1987 with the goal of “bringing the Lane Series back to UVM”
- And she had a few “secret weapons in her arsenal for doing that...”
- Unlike Jack Trevithick (English teacher) and Terrance Demas (theater guy), Jane was a musician and a scholar of music...
- She was chair of the UVM Music Department from 1988–1998
- She was a baroque flutist who performed internationally on modern and period instruments





- She was a music historian and pedagogue and placed great emphasis on education
- And though she famously wrote the introduction to *The Phish Companion*, she was classical music and early music all the way!
- Under her Directorship the Lane Series changed once again...

Jane Ambrose



- Jane brought the Lane Series into the UVM Recital Hall. It became the Lane Series main venue, though we continued to rent the Flynn and use Ira Allen Chapel for bigger events
- She focused primarily, but by no means entirely, on classical music of the highest caliber. The Lane Series continued to develop a world-class reputation for the presentation of chamber music, early music, and classical piano, forging a relationship with the Cliburn Competition



THE CLIBURN



Some highlights presented during Jane's tenure include:

Musica Antiqua Köln

Anonymous 4

Tokyo String Quartet

William Bolcom

The Berlin Philharmonic

Vladimir Feltsman

The Takács String Quartet

Ursula Oppens

Doc Watson

Marian McPartland

Les Ballets Africains

Peter Serkin

The Acting Company

Frederic Chiu

Ton Koopman

The Orpheus Chamber Orchestra

The Roche Sisters

Under Jane's leadership, lovers of classical music, especially chamber music, were in seventh heaven!

Marian McPartland



On a summer morning in 1958, a city block in Harlem filled with some of the finest jazz musicians of the era, many, perhaps, just off stage from late-night sessions that lasted till dawn. Marian McPartland was one of only 3 women in the photo...



TRIVIA QUESTIONS:

Can you name the
photograph?

The photographer?

The 2 other women?



ANSWERS:

PHOTO TITLE:

A Great Day in Harlem

PHOTOGRAPHER:

Art Kane

TWO OTHER WOMEN:

Mary Lou Williams, pianist;
Maxine Sullivan, singer

Mary Lou Williams

Maxine Sullivan



THE LANE
SERIES TODAY...
**A DIFFERENT
LANDSCAPE...**



Jane hired me as Manager in 1994, and I became Director in 2010...

Things were very different than they were 70 years ago:

- There was a lot more on offer in Burlington: we were definitely not the only show in town
- There was a lot more enticing things on offer in film and television
- Touring costs, salaries, artists fees: exponentially higher
- And while Jane's effort to bring Lane "back to campus" did stabilize costs, and the Recital Hall was a wonderful place to present music, it did limit audiences

Natalie Neuert



- If you asked 100 people on Church Street what the Lane Series was, in 1975 — at least 75% would know
- This was no longer the case
- I felt that the programming would have to change to embrace a wider audience

LANE series

THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

WORLD MUSIC
CHAMBER MUSIC
JAZZ
EARLY MUSIC
FOLK
THEATER
PIANO
FILM

2011-2012

PERFORMANCE SEASON

SEPTEMBER

PASATONO ORQUESTA, world music from Mexico 9/30

OCTOBER

SARA DAVIS BUECHNER, piano 10/7

HOT CLUB OF COWTOWN, Texas swing 10/14

LAURE ANDERSON, "Ode to..." 10/15

CUARTETO CASALS, chamber music 10/21

ST. PETERSBURG STRING QUARTET, chamber music 10/30

NOVEMBER

HARRY MANIX, live, guitar, harp and motion picture 11/4

JAUME LABORDA and SHARON ROBINSON, violin and cello duo 11/11

REGINA CARTER'S "REVERSE THREAD," jazz and African roots 11/18

DECEMBER

MOREA SMILEY AND VOCCO, holiday program, folk/world music 12/2

THE ROSE ENSEMBLE, holiday program 12/9

JANUARY

ANONYMOUS 4, vocal ensemble 1/7

FEBRUARY

MIKLIT HADIRO, world music and jazz 2/3

KATE DAVIS, jazz for Valentine's Day 2/11

LE VENT DU NORD and THE PINE LEAF BOYS, "Ode to..." 2/17

MIKE DAVIS, "The Agency and the Ecology of Slave Jobs" 2/23-2/25

MARCH

MATT HAMMOVITZ, solo cello 3/7

FREDERIC CHU, piano 3/9

St. Peter's Day with LUNASA, "radical Irish" 3/17

LIOVA AND THE KONTRABAND, original klezmer, gypsy, Eastern European 3/23

PETER MULVEY, string quartet 3/30

APRIL

VASSILY PRIMAOKOV, piano 4/13

LIS AMIES, Carol Winick, Rose Nancy Allen, harp, Cynthia Phelps, viola 4/20

PABLO ZIEGLER TRIO FOR NUEVO TANGO 4/27

MAY

MORDENSTERN PIANO TRIO, chamber music 5/2

To order tickets, learn about events, or for a brochure, please visit WWW.UVM.EDU/LANESERIES or call 802.656.4455

My commitment to the Lane Series was and is to:

- Broaden the programming to encompass more contemporary forms of folk music, world music, jazz, and pop
- Be true to the wonderful acoustics of our hall
- Continue the Lane tradition of world class classical music because it must be kept relevant and alive, and find new audiences
- Find creative ways to not be limited by only being able to sell 300 seats: sponsorships, fundraising, new endowments supporting specific types of music
- Sell more tickets/grow our audience



My commitment to the Lane Series was and is to:

- Increase class visits, masterclasses, workshops — outreach to students to increase student interest
- Present the highest caliber of performances — we want to blow your mind with the level of our artists Be true to our history.
- Present music that reflects the breadth and diversity of world music cultures. (Even as that gets harder to do)
- Pay artists a fair fee. Be an “anchor” for touring in our region
- Know our audience and welcome them into our space — who comes, what they like, how far can we challenge them

FREE WORKSHOP WITH **DREAMERS' CIRCUS**

Nordic band featuring Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen (Denmark/Faroe Islands), Ale Carr (Sweden), and Nikolaj Busk (Denmark).

Friday, 10/24, 4:30–5:30 pm
at UVM in Burlington

Limited to 20, Reservations (required) and info: mark.sustic@gmail.com
Sponsored by UVM Lane Series and MS Projects LLC



The UVM Lane Series is a non-profit performance art series.

We are a self-supporting organization within the University and receive no additional contributions from its general funds.

THANK YOU TO OUR **2025 FALL SESSIONS SPONSORS**



and thanks to
our anonymous
donors

with Grant Support from: Vermont Community Foundation | Vermont Humanities | Vermont Council on the Arts



FOLLOW US ON



Find a curated playlist of our favorite songs from this fall's performers, as well as a trip down memory lane with a tonight's playlist from seasons past!

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY!

