

COMMUNITY NATIONAL BANK CELEBRATION SERIES



2026-2027

Robert Cray

SEPTEMBER 19

The Lightfoot Band

OCTOBER 10

Suzanne Vega

OCTOBER 23

Samantha Fish

NOVEMBER 13

Solas

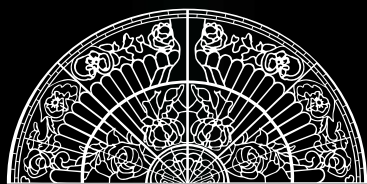
MARCH 5

La Famille LeBlanc

APRIL 2

Sweet Caroline Tour

APRIL 9



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Solas 3/5

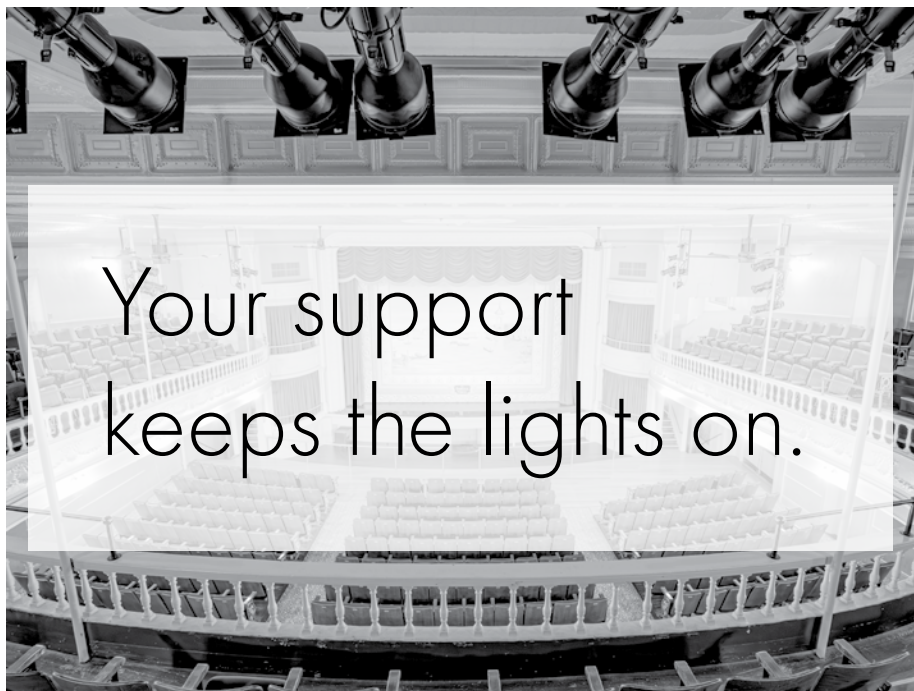
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Ticket sales cover less than half of what it takes to put on a season of great events, so donations from people like you make the magic possible.

Barre Opera House members help power not just the electric lights that illuminate the stage (and now downtown Barre), but also the dozens of performances and educational programs each year that brighten the Central Vermont community.

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FROM THE ASHES TO THE STARS:

The Rebirth, Decline and Rebirth Again of Barre Opera House

After the original Barre City Hall and Opera House building was destroyed by fire in 1898, the current building was erected on the same footprint. The new Opera House, considered to be the finest in Vermont, seated 1,000 and opened on August 23, 1899.

For its first 45 years, the Opera House served as performance space and community gathering site for such important events as the appearances of Helen Keller, The Four Cohans (which included young George M.), socialist Eugene V. Debbs, anarchist Emma Goldman, John Philip Sousa, and Tom Mix and his horse.

Through the 1930s and 1940s, Barre Opera House functioned as a movie theater with occasional breaks in the schedule for school graduations, boxing and wrestling matches. Due to the war and bad debts, the doors were closed in January 1944, not to open again for almost forty years.

In the mid-seventies, a groundswell of community interest and support culminated in the reopening of Barre Opera House in October, 1982.

In spite of dingy walls, broken windows, and a lack of real seats, lights, curtains or heat, the Barre Players' production of "Sweet Charity" ushered in the rebirth of this historic theater and community center.

Since then, Barre Opera House has continued its work towards complete restoration. In the past 30 years, an addition to the building facilitated handicap accessibility and offered a new lobby and dressing rooms. Other major projects have included installation of state of the art heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems, storm windows (to reduce noise reduction and improve heating efficiency) and returning the theater to its original paint colors.

Recent improvements, made possible by a \$1.2M capital campaign, include updates to the lighting and sound systems, addition of stagehouse smoke vents, new historically-designed seating, major electrical updates and a replica of the original 1899 painted main curtain. New LED exterior lights bring life to the street, as supporters like you bring life to this beautiful, resilient, historic place.

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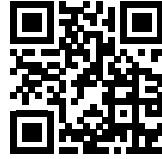
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The Robert Cray Band

Saturday, September 19, 2026



Blues icon. Soul man. Rock and roller. Robert Cray is all these things – and more. The Georgia born, Washington-raised musician first picked up a guitar after seeing The Beatles on TV, then, having witnessed Jimi Hendrix perform in Seattle, determined that his destiny would also follow a similar path. And so he has: across the past half century Robert Cray's developed into one of American music's most singular artists.

Blending traditional instrumentation with hard-driving southern blues, rhythm and soulful vocals, Cray is widely regarded as one of the greatest blues artists to ever grace the stage. He's garnered five Grammys, the Americana Music Awards Lifetime Achievement Award and Blues Hall of Fame honors.

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The Lightfoot Band

Saturday, October 10, 2025



These are the seasoned musicians who collaborated with Gordon on his world-famous recordings and toured extensively with him here in North America and internationally for many decades.

The Lightfoot Band includes these legendary veterans:

Rick Haynes on bass, Barry Keane on drums and percussion, Mike Heffernan on keyboards, and Bill Bell on the lead guitars, and, in 2024, introducing Andy Mauck on vocals and 6 & 12 string rhythm guitars.

Together, they are now keeping Gordon's music alive - Playing the hits - Sundown, If You Could Read My Mind, Carefree Highway, the Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald, Beautiful, Rainy Day People, Early Morning Rain, to name a few and also some deeper cuts, not heard live for decades.

Band members will relate some history and "stories of the road" and will be available to meet the audience after shows in the lobby area.

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Suzanne Vega

Friday, October 23, 2026



Widely regarded as one of the foremost songwriters of her generation, Suzanne Vega emerged as a leading figure of the folk revival of the early 1980s. Accompanying herself on acoustic guitar, Vega sang what has been called contemporary folk or neo-folk songs of her own creation in Greenwich Village clubs. Since the release of her self-titled, critically acclaimed 1985 debut album, she has given sold-out concerts in many of the world's best-known venues.

Bearing the stamp of a masterful storyteller who "observes the world with a clinically poetic eye" (The New York Times), Vega's songs have tended to focus on city life, ordinary people and real-world subjects. Notably succinct and understated, her work is immediately recognizable—as utterly distinct and thoughtful as it was when her voice was first heard on the radio over 40 years ago.

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Samantha Fish

Friday, November 13, 2026



Samantha Fish is bringing her explosive live show and artistic command to our stage. Known for her boldness, superb musicianship, and emotional depth, the 2-time Grammy nominee delivers a live performance that perfectly balances raw instinct with ferocious climaxes.

"There's a fire that comes across in live performance," Fish notes.
"The stage lays all of that bare."

Shaped by influences as varied as Prince, Leonard Cohen, and Mississippi Hill Country blues, songs evolve in real time when she takes the stage. Expect to hear tracks like "Lose You" building with relentless momentum, the hypnotic guitar phrasing of "Sweet Southern Sounds," and her defiant feminist anthem "Paper Doll." And when the band rips into her legendary cover of MC5's "Kick Out the Jams," the room completely detonates.

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Solas

Friday, March 5, 2027



Solas is hailed by The Boston Globe as “the finest Celtic ensemble this country has ever produced” and The Wall Street Journal as “an Irish traditional band bearing all the marks of greatness.”

Since forming in New York City in 1995 they have been a galvanizing element in the Irish music scene – a lightning rod of talent and inspiration that set new standards for musicianship, repertoire, and intensity. Over the course of twelve critically acclaimed albums and endless international touring, Solas brought their love and respect for the traditions of Irish music, and their sense of melodic and instrumental adventure to the world.

After an eight year hiatus, Solas returned in 2025 to celebrate their 30th Anniversary. Their newest project, *Shamrock City: Seekers & Dreamers*, Solas blends music, song, spoken word and elements of the theatrical experience to echo the vitality of their landmark 2013 album *Shamrock City* and carry its themes and essence forward into American life today.

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La Famille LeBlanc

Friday, April 2, 2027



The celebrated LeBlanc Clan, “La famille LeBlanc”, is a family band specializing in 19th-century tunes deeply rooted in Celtic and Acadian traditions. Their repertoire includes melodies and songs largely unknown to other Celtic cultures like those of Ireland, Brittany, and Scotland. With a rich blend of history and artistry, they present some of the oldest Acadian songs and ballads, enhanced by baroque, jazz, and traditional arrangements on the piano.

The family band is composed of father Robin (piano), mother Rebecca (vocals) and three talented daughters, Charlotte (fiddle), Melodie (whistle) and Rosalie (concertina). Together they have charmed audiences worldwide, performing on stages in South Korea, the United States, Germany, France, and across Canada.

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