

Pianist Butch Thompson of Prairie Home Companion comes to WRJ

An Evening with Butch Thompson

A benefit for Upper Valley Music Center sponsored by the Briggs Family

Monday, February 23 | 7:30 pm

Briggs Opera House
White River Junction, VT
www.uvmusic.org

...from Ragtime to jazz, Scott Joplin to Jelly Roll to Ellington...

Dear UVMC community,

I'd like to invite you to a special performance by Butch Thompson, the iconic piano player whose playing on the Prairie Home Companion Radio Show has thrilled so many over the years.

The concert is sponsored by the Briggs family, who have generously made it a benefit for UVMC, making it a can't miss event:

*With your ticket you get an **unforgettable evening of music** by a nationally known artist and you **support local music education** and the music made by faculty and students at UVMC.*

More from David Briggs on the significance of this concert below.

I look forward to seeing you there!

Ben

Benjamin Van Vliet
Executive Director

Tickets: General Admission \$25
Doors open at 6:45 pm

The Box Office is the Hotel Coolidge Front Desk
Walk-in, call 802-295-3118, or email info@hotelcoolidge.com

Continued

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Upper Valley Music Center · 63 Hanover St · PO Box 826 · Lebanon, NH 03766 · (603) 448-1642 · www.uvmusic.org



David writes:

Join us for a performance by the iconic piano player whose arpeggio started off the Prairie Home Companion Radio Show for its first 12 years and who continues as a frequent guest.

The intimacy of the space will provide a special musical experience as it has for so many musical and theatrical events since 1985. This concert will also be to benefit the Upper Valley Music Center.

Indeed it was one day less than 30 years ago when The Butch Thompson Trio called out 410 people (in a space that today seats 245) and began what led to River City Arts and Northern Stage. On February 24, 1985 the “trio” with cornetist Charlie Devore thrilled an Upper Valley audience and the rest, as they say, is history. This time the show is totally Butch, his incredible musical skills and his good sense of humor too. Don’t miss it!

In a career spanning over 45 years, pianist and clarinetist Butch Thompson has earned a world-wide reputation as a traditional jazz and ragtime master. He tours widely as a soloist or at the helm of any of his several ensembles, including his well-known Butch Thompson Trio, his eight-piece Jazz Originals band, the Butch Thompson Big Three, or his unique blues duo with fingerstyle guitarist Pat Donohue.

He has performed with many symphony orchestras, including the Hartford Symphony, the St. Louis Symphony, the Erie Philharmonic, the Minnesota Orchestra, and the Cairo (Egypt) Symphony.

His musical roots are ragtime and traditional jazz including New Orleans style including the works of Scott Joplin, Fats Waller, Jelly Roll Morton, Bix Beiderbecke, and on through Duke Ellington. The music has general appeal extending to younger artists and music lovers.

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