



'Masters of the Universe' brings '80s icons to life

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Celebration of art and entertainment

Comedy, theater and outdoor music mark scene in June

Brent Hallenbeck
Burlington Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

June is a prime month on the Vermont arts and entertainment scene, with the Burlington Discover Jazz Festival doing its thing and the start of the outdoor concert season. We'll touch upon those events in this rundown of 30 fun things to do this June, but you'll find even more about the jazz fest and fresh-air music in other articles by the Burlington Free Press.

There's more than just music to be had this month. A couple of professional theater companies get their summer seasons started, another ends its season and comedy continues to create good vibes.

Go forth and seek all of the good vibes the Vermont arts scene has to offer.

Have your Cake and hear it, too

8 p.m. Tuesday, June 2, the outdoor music season starts cooking when '90s alternative rock hitmakers **Cake** make their way to the midway lawn at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction for a show presented by Higher Ground. \$59.50; free for ages 12 and under. highergroundmusic.com

Savion Glover, Jason Moran and more

7 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, opening night for the five-day Burlington Discover Jazz Festival has the improvisational performance "**The Beat Beneath Us**" featuring festival curator and pianist **Jason Moran**, tap dancer **Savion Glover** and drummer **Chris Dave** following movement and music from **Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE**, **A Dance Company**, the Flynn, Burlington. \$38.36-\$101.28. flynnvt.org

Trousdale pops into Higher Ground

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, pop trio **Trousdale** joins **verygently** for a concert in the Higher Ground Showcase Lounge, South Burlington. \$22. highergroundmusic.com

Searching for intelligent life in Montpelier

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 4, **Lost Nation Theater** begins its run through

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Indie-rock musician Kurt Vile.
PROVIDED BY ELEANOR PETRY



Jesse Taylor of the Jesse Taylor Band performs on August 22, 2025 at the Champlain Valley Fair in Essex Junction. ALISON REDLICH/FOR THE BURLINGTON FREE PRESS



Guitarist Stephan Wrembel.
PROVIDED BY ROB DAVIDSON



On May 27, Steven Tendo, a UVMCC Support Staff United union member, spoke about the effect on his career of what he called his "abduction" by ICE officers in February in Burlington. COREY ARWOOD/BURLINGTON FREE PRESS

Union wants hospital to keep ICE out

Corey Arwood
Burlington Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Since a judge freed Steven Tendo from federal custody in February, he's continued schooling to become a registered nurse and is now advocating for unionized healthcare workers, "immigrant or not."

Tendo — who fled Uganda, crossed the southern border in 2018 and has been unsuccessfully seeking asylum — was a featured speaker May 27 alongside a coalition of union and migrants' rights leaders ahead of negotiations with University of Vermont Health.

The groups joined to push for a "livable wage," a guarantee that the hospital system would bar U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement from facilities and a commitment to stocking dairy products only from farms in Migrant Justice's Milk with Dignity initiative.

"What happened to me is not just a personal story, it's a workplace issue, a community issue and a human dignity issue," said Tendo, standing outside the Vermont Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals headquarters, a building with peeling paint that faces UVM Medical Center.

Asked about what happened in February, when he was approached and detained by ICE officers, he said: "I wasn't approached by ICE. I was abducted by ICE."

It was at least the second time he had been "abducted by armed men," as he put it in a firsthand account published by UVM Health, where he has worked since 2022, describing why he left his home country.

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