

# UCS News Release

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## Flame Brings Rock N Roll, and Inspiration, to Bennington

Bennington and Manchester, Vt. — The inspiring rock group Flame will perform in Bennington Friday, November 13 at 7pm at the Mt. Anthony Union High School Auditorium, 301 Park Street, in Bennington. Advance tickets are \$7 and \$10 at the door.

Michelle King, the talented lead vocalist and guitarist, sings rock, blues, pop classics, and even country. With a rich and soulful voice and tremendous range, she radiates energy in concert that sparks her legion of fans.

On tour this year, she led the band through Europe and across the US, playing for crowds up to 17,000 people, working with industry giants like Darius Rucker, and performing at the World Games and Special Olympics.

Despite the acclaim, Flame is an unlikely band. Each member overcame challenges to perform, such as blindness, disability, and autism. Yet according to people who see Flame, they are unforgettable performers.

“When people see Flame, they come away with a completely different idea of what it means to have a disability,” Flame Manager Maria Nestle said. “Flame is really changing the world through music by helping people go beyond stereotypes.”

The 11-piece ensemble has come out with two hit CDs as well as a widely praised collection of holiday music. Now they are considering future options that include studio work in Los Angeles, documentary films, and invitations to perform in distant lands like Nigeria.

For fans, Flame is inspiring. What’s more, the band’s rhythm and boogie rock gets the audience dancing and smiling. An evening with the band is an escape to a world where joyous music sets you free.

Like other charismatic musicians, King was an early performer who developed a very expressive, outgoing stage presence, a reality at odds with her childhood diagnosis that she was autistic, mentally challenged, and unlikely ever to have conversations.

Obviously, she understands music.

David LaGrange, the band’s drummer, is quite simply a machine. He learned to play the drums at his school for the blind and he now cranks out walls of sound and powerful rhythms that set the groove for the other band members. A talented vocalist, LaGrange also creates some masterful harmonies.

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Scott Stuart, like all the other band members, combines big musical talent with disabilities. In his case, Stuart contributes percussion and big vocals for the band despite cerebral palsy and blindness.

You can experience the Flame phenomenon at Mount Anthony Union High School as they perform, fresh from a national concert event in Pittsburgh, PA.

To find out more about this exciting band for all ages, visit their official web site, [www.flametheband.com](http://www.flametheband.com).

Advance tickets to see Flame in Bennington are available for \$7 at the Bennington Bookshop, Bennington Chamber, Northshire Bookstore, and Manchester Chamber.

You can also get your tickets now by calling United Counseling Service at 802-442-5491, x313.

United Counseling Service serves children, adults, families, and seniors through nationally recognized counseling, early care and education, and clinical support. Visit [www.ucsvt.org](http://www.ucsvt.org) to find out more.

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