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Subject: December events with the VFSS
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To: undisclosed-recipients;



Vancouver Folk Song Society

December 2023

www.vfss.ca

Friends (Quaker) Hall, 1090 west 70th at Osler St.

Got news?

Contact us with comments or news at vanfolksong@gmail.com by **Saturday, Dec. 30** to be included in the next newsletter.

This email newsletter is sent to VFSS members and subscribers by request.

To unsubscribe, go to vfss.ca/email-lists.

Coughs? Sniffles? A bit of a fever? COVID, flu or "just" a cold? None of those is any fun, and for some, it can be very serious! If you have symptoms, please join us safely over Zoom. We care about your good health and ours, too. Share songs, not bugs.

Our VFSS members are certainly out and about this month with performances across the lower mainland. Look for something close to home or range out to "like and follow" them **in person**.

Our **COVID** precautions continue to evolve with the science and the seasons. Please note the changes in that section below.

Meanwhile, science is suggesting that music can alleviate some of our pain — emotional and physical. Maybe it's not news to VFSS, but folks in white coats are testing and measuring and reporting on their results. See the **Links** section at the of the newsletter to read more.

Schedule & Upcoming Events

- **7:00 pm** Doors open
- **7:20 Harmony Jam** invites everyone to warm up their voices together as they start the evening with well-loved sing-along songs.
- **7:30 - 8:30** open stage / song circle
- **8:30 - 8:45** break (bring your own snacks/beverages)
- **8:45 - 9:45** feature performers
- **10:00 pm** Doors close

5th Wednesdays Zoom-only song circles with breakout rooms if there are enough participants.

The Zoom link will be sent to our mailing list the day before, as usual.

Dec. 6

In person

**Open stage &
feature sets**

**No online
options**

· **Barb Shaw a.k.a. Random Old Lady**

With over 50 years of musical experience, Random Old Lady's songs are steeped in Americana influences of folk, jazz, blues, and rock, played in her personal percussive guitar style. Barb is a prolific songwriter in many genres and has a talent for creating custom songs to help bring communities together around a common cause.

https://youtube.com/@randomoldlady_

· **Robert Connely Farr, with Jay Bundy Johnson**

Vancouver singer-songwriter Robert Connely Farr (2019 Maple Blues Awards nominee for Songwriter & New Artist of the Year) grew up in the small southern town of Bolton, Mississippi. By turns soulful and searing, Farr's music has dodged bullets, faced cancer, and earned rave reviews from coast to coast. Farr will be accompanied by old school drummer Jay Bundy Johnson.

<https://www.robertconnelyfarr.com/>

<https://robertconnelyfarr.bandcamp.com/album/live-in-eastvan>

<https://www.youtube.com/@jaybundyjohnson>

· **(30 minutes) Ellen van der Hoeven**, from North Vancouver, and **Tom Rawson**, from Orcas Island WA, love to strike up hootenanny fun on both sides of the 49th Parallel. They come armed with banjos, guitars, mandolin, penny whistles, and other weapons of mass delight. Their humorous stories, user-friendly songs, and acoustic folk philosophy are guaranteed to leave you smiling.

Dec. 20 VFSS Winter Solstice gathering Open stage all evening!

Live-stream only, no Zoom song circles for this event

The annual (aside from missing a few years due to Covid and snow storms) Winter Solstice evening will warm your hearts and vocal chords. What song makes you feel warm and fuzzy at this time of year? There are a limited number of spots so please consider a collaboration. Maybe a new one! Our host/MCs will be Madeleine de Little and Jim Edmondson. Sign up with Jim at jim.edmondson@telus.net

Yummy nibbles provided by Linda Chobotuck, hot chocolate by the Re:Sisters, Jim will bring wine, Elizabeth Dunn will provide hot cider. Many thanks to all the providers! Please bring your own mug.

Jan. 3

**Special theme
night**

**We Love Our
Planet**

*Songs of Social
and
Environmental
Justice from
...*

Now more than ever, we need songs that inspire us to work for peace, justice, and survival. Come join us.

· **Jim Edmondson and Madeleine de Little** have been reaching out and building community for over a decade. With their intricate harmonies and inspiring messages, the duo is a welcome feature at local demonstrations, community events, and local coffee houses, wherever hope and solidarity are needed.

· **Bevan Bartlett** grew up singing traditional music. With a penchant for ballads, airs, and laments, Bevan sings a

Around the World

performance for bands, ensembles, and soloists, Bevan sings a cappella or accompanied by guitar or reed drones. For this special theme night, Bevan will be showcasing his varied political material.

- **Sabat and Sawen** have touched audiences around the world with their soulful renditions of Kurdish favourites accompanied by cello and violin. The duo hail from the town of Rania, Sulaymaniyah, in Iraqi Kurdistan. Both graduated from the Institute of Fine Arts at Salahaddin University in Erbil. They have participated in festivals and concerts in Iraq, Europe, and Canada, and now make their home in BC. Hear them at:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCMk6HGcbZ3clqOXU6mRxM7g.

- **Fraser Union** has been a musical force to be reckoned with since 1983, and their music continues to forge connections and strengthen communities. Roger Holdstock, Kathy Griffin, and Barry Truter bring their passion for meaningful music to audiences around BC. For more, check out <http://fraserunion.com/>

Jan. 17

Watch for more details soon on our four features — Robin Holmes, Mary Armitage, Craig Williams, and Graham Baldwin.

How to be a Feature: Sign up for your “15 minutes of fame” in the calendar at the front desk at the Folk on Wednesday or [email](#) the coordinator.

Accessible Folk! The Friends Hall has upgraded its facilities to include elevator access for those using wheelchairs or other mobility aids. The entrance is from Osler St.

Our COVID precautions

We can't eliminate all risk of exposure, but we try to limit it by caring for one another through our safety measures.

Ventilation With the onset of wintery weather, we'll be *reducing* the use of open doors and windows for ventilation, and adding *additional* HEPA air purifiers instead. The CO₂ monitor remains. So, it won't be warm, but it won't be as cold... This change makes following mask and self-monitoring guidelines even more important.

- **Masks.** We *welcome* you wearing a mask when you're not leading a song or reciting a poem, especially if you have health risks. Please respect each other's choice and continue to stay home if you're not feeling healthy.

- **Self-monitoring** If you are experiencing *any* [Covid symptoms](#), please stay home and get well soon!

Free to Good Home – Oak Pews

VFSS is helping the Friends make more space in the hall by “rehomeing” two lovely old oak pews. They measure 106" x 36" x 21" and are Heavy! You'll need at least 4 strong bodies to carry them down 12 steps and a 9' long truck bed to transport them from the Friends Hall at 70th and Oak St. in Vancouver. Contact Jim Edmondson, jim.edmondson@telus.net

VFSS TOURS

Betty Mc Burney, VFSS singer and multi-instrumentalist, will be busy this month. She is part of The Bergamasca Consort, a music ensemble featuring a range of recorders and other instruments, performing music from medieval to the modern. Betty also plays bassoon, along with her husband Henry, in the Delta Concert Band.

- **Sat. Dec. 9** Bergamasca Consort "Festive Ayres: A Musical Smorgasbord" at Old Hastings Mill Store Museum, 1575 Alma St. 3 pm Free admission. Donations to the museum appreciated.
- **Tues., Dec. 12** Delta Concert Band Christmas concert, 7:30 pm, North Delta Arts Centre, 11425 84 Ave, North Delta. Donations of non-perishable food for the food bank are requested.

Jenny Pluck Pears (aka **Leona Axbey** and friends) will be giving two holiday concerts:

- **Sun., Dec. 10** at 2 pm at Roedde House Museum in the West End, 1415 Barclay St.
- **Sat., Dec. 16** at 1 pm, Old Hastings Mill Store Museum, 1575 Alma St. Point Grey Rd.

Sat. Dec. 9 Michael Burnyeat CD release Concert "Fiddlin' Around the Christmas

Tree" is Michael's 3rd album. It features a blend of Christmas and fiddle music, including classic carols, songs, and winter-themed fiddle tunes. Michael will be joined in concert by guitarist Craig McGregor, guitarist and singer Brian Holmes, accordionist Kosta Bozhinov, and fiddler Kai Gronberg. **Brian Robertson** and the Open Door Fiddlers youth group will also be playing. A holiday party for music lovers of all ages!

Open Door Music School, 3721 West 10th Ave. Doors Open 7 pm Start 7:30 pm, \$25
Reservations required. Please call 604-222-2299. Please no scents or perfumes.

Michael Averill has recorded a new collection of (old) songs, including some of his father's favorites. His father, Garry, was a big influence on Michael, and you can listen to the new recordings, done live, at <https://michaelaverill.bandcamp.com/album/my-dads-songs>.

How to stay in touch

- With [Facebook](#) and [Youtube](#), you can view the news and photos we share there.
- Our [website](#) has details and reminders of upcoming VFSS events, as well as news, photos, notes about what to expect at our events, and technical tips for Zoom events.

OTHER EVENTS

Music & More on Main

Zoom on 1st and 3rd Thurs. **Live** on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. **New addition – last Sunday afternoon of each month.** Little Mountain Neighbourhood House had a fire this summer and the live events have been moved to **City Heights**

Housing Society, 155 E. 37th Ave. Park on 37th Ave., walk up the west side of the building to the lobby at the back. If there is no one waiting to let you in, go past the bike racks into the garden on the north and tap on the glass of the meeting room. Contact Tim Mar at timmarsons@gmail.com if you want to perform or attend. To get on the mailing list, email Stoo Born at emin7b5@shaw.ca.

Folk Music on the Beach – 2nd Fridays

Folk Music on the Beach – 2nd Fridays

Fri. Dec. 8 at the Hollyburn Sailing Club, **Feature: The Trout Lake Trio and Jim Edmondson & Madeleine De Little.** 1326 Argyle Ave., West Vancouver. \$10 at the door, BYOB. House band from 7:30-8 pm, featured performers from 8 – 10 pm. Reserve with Neil at carroll_neil@hotmail.com. It helps with their planning!
www.folkmusicatthebeach.com

Musical Friends on Fraser (MFF)– 2nd Fridays

Fri. Dec. 8 MFF is an open stage coffeehouse at the 411 Seniors' Centre, 3502 Fraser St. Doors open at 7 pm, Open stage starts at 7:30 pm and a 30-minute feature begins at 8:30 p.m. The evening finishes around 9:30 pm-10 pm. By donation. For more information, contact earlepeach@yahoo.ca

Deep Cove Coffee House – 3rd Fridays

Dec. 15 Feature: The Ilhan Saferali Quartette (<https://ilhansaferali.com>) joined for this performance by Miles Black (piano), Maverick MacMillan (drums) & Brock Meades (bass). **Opening acts: Jessica Heaven with Mary Sparks & John Lyon.** (<https://www.jessicaheaven.com>) and **Linda Szentes & Jazzlinks** - Linda on vocals, Mike Toth on guitar and Joe Worst on bass. (<https://lszentes26.wixsite.com/linda-szentes>) Mount Seymour United Church, 1200 Parkgate Ave, Doors open: 7:00 pm, Warm-up acts: 7:30 pm, Feature act: 9 pm. Admission: \$15 includes baked goodies, coffee, teas and cold drinks (Youth: \$5 / children & musicians: free).

Beats on Broadway – 4th Friday

Fri., Dec. 22 Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House, 800 E Broadway. Doors open at 7 pm, Open stage starts at 7:30 pm and a 30-minute feature begins at 8:30 p.m. The evening finishes around 9:30 pm-10 pm. By donation. For more information, earlepeach@yahoo.ca

Local Folk Resources

Available at our in-person events or order copies online

- ***Songs of the Pacific Northwest***, by Philip Thomas, edited by Jon Bartlett. 208 pp., 62 songs with lyrics, notes for melody, and chords, historical background to the people and events in the song, b&w photos, and index.
- ***Phil Thomas & The Songs of British Columbia***, by Jon Bartlett, 35 pp. This is a brief biography of Phil Thomas and a description of how he travelled throughout BC meeting singers and collecting their songs and history.
- **“Blow the Man Down: Tall Ships on the Fraser.”**
This CD is a collection of some of our favorite shanties, performed by a collection of singers no longer performing together – so this is your only chance to hear them! It's a gift to new members upon joining, but maybe you need more than one copy. It includes a small booklet of historical information about shipping on the Fraser River and the songs.

To read more or order copies, go to <https://vfss.ca/order-form/>

Local links and beyond

Across the Water to Vancouver Island

Check out the [Victoria Folk Music Society](#) to see a schedule of their events, as well as other music (and dance!!) events around the Island, from Cumberland to Sooke, and of course, Victoria. VFMS meets every Sunday at 1110 Hillside Ave., 6:30 pm jam; 7:30 pm open stage, 9 pm feature. \$8 at the door.

Rogue Folk Club live and streaming

The [Rogue](#) is offering live concerts again, as well as streaming options. Upcoming concerts include performances by long-time folk favorites as well as new faces.

Music can soothe physical pain, research shows

New Canadian research suggests that your favourite music could be as effective as ibuprofen for relieving pain. Darius Valevicius, lead author of the study, has been interviewed for various radio programs, including CBC's "Quirks and Quarks," and ["The Current,"](#) and written about in *The Guardian*, "The Big Idea: [Could We Use Music Like Medicine?](#)"