

From: Vancouver Folk Song Society vanfolksong@gmail.com
Subject: Events in the New Year with VFSS
Date: December 31, 2023 at 3:46 PM
To: undisclosed-recipients;



Vancouver Folk Song Society

January 2024

www.vfss.ca

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

Got news? Performing somewhere?

Contact us with comments or news at vanfolksong@gmail.com by **Saturday, Feb. 3** to be included in the next newsletter.

This email newsletter is sent to VFSS members and to 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.

The December Solstice event was an event to warm our hearts in the dark of the year. We sang an inspiring variety of music and enjoyed delightful treats at the break. Special thanks to **Linda Chobotuck** for the baking, **Re:Sisters** for the hot chocolate, **Jim Edmondson** for the wine, and **Elizabeth Dunn** for the hot cider.

During the evening, the **Al Cox** awards for 2023 were presented to **Leona Axbey** and **Steve Deering**. Starting in 2021, the Board established this award to recognize members for their "outstanding service and contributions" to the VFSS. It was named for one of the four founders of the VFSS in 1959. Our [website](#) has more details about their involvement, and here's a few of the highlights.

- **Leona** has been a board member, served on Retreat and other committees, coordinated our features, and hosted online and in-person events. She's been coming to the Folk since the 1980s, offering her time as her schedule became more open. She's a singer and songwriter, too, and currently is part of an ensemble called "Jenny Pluck Pears," playing mostly English Country Dance music.
- **Steve** is a relative latecomer to the Folk, discovering us after his retirement. He's served on the board and currently holds the reins of the complicated membership and mailing lists. His technical skills guided us through the early COVID challenges to establish online song circles and live-streaming. His musical contributions range from singing with the Lazy Jacks to playing bodhran to accompany his own singing as well as accompanying others at the Folk.

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

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.

Jan. 3

Special theme night

We Love Our Planet

Songs of Social and Environmental Justice from Around the World

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 cappella or accompanied by guitar or reed drones. For this special theme night, Bevan will be showcasing his varied political material.

No online options

• **Sabat and Sawen Majeed** 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, and 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

Zoom options

Online song

• **Robin Holmes** has taken to folk songs and singing like a duck to water. His dramatic style brings life to his diverse song choices, including songs in Russian and other languages. Robin also loves the "Filk" tradition, which draws from the sci-fi and fantasy genres.

circle & livestream of features

- **Mary Armitage** has been happily singing both traditional and contemporary folk songs, as well as writing her own material, since the 1960s in London, England. Here in Canada, she learned to play a variety of instruments and has enjoyed singing harmonies with her folky friends at the VFSS for the last fifteen years.
- **Craig Williams** Whether with CW Bluesbox or the Jook Joint Jokers, Craig is well-known for his soulful interpretations of the country blues of the 1920s-1940s, as well as authentic originals. Let the blues make you smile.
- **Graham Baldwin** has played guitar since he was a child and melodeon for over 30 years. He has played in many bands and maintains an eclectic repertoire encompassing acoustic & electric blues, traditional & contemporary folk, and what he calls (with affection!) "cheap, pop crap." He is a founding and current member of the [Vancouver Morris Men](#) and the [Rattlebone Band](#), a local folk/ceilidh/English Country Dance band.

Jan. 31 Fifth Wednesday! Zoom Song Circle

Another 5th Wednesday for our local folkies and friends further afield to share songs over Zoom. There'll also be a feature set with **Lyn Pinkerton and Terry Akai**.

Link will be emailed on Tuesday.

Feb. 7

Features will include Steve Deering; Re:Sisters; Colleen Griffin, Cam Salay and Shirley Wiebe; and Jazzophilia.

Details in the next newsletter and on our website www.vfss.ca

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

Ventilation During cooler weather, we're *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.

measures.

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

Gone to a Good Home – Oak Pews

Thanks to Barry C who has rehomed two lovely old oak pews that were not being used in the hall. Now we have more space for chairs and singing. Improvements “to be continued.”

VFSS folks

Jan. 12 Fraser Union and **Graham Baldwin** are features at Hollyburn Sailing Club’s Folk Music on the Beach.

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.
- Contact us with news of an upcoming performance for the next newsletter at vanfolksong@gmail.com.

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 last summer and the live events have 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 timmarsongs@gmail.com if you want to perform or attend. To get on the mailing list, email Stoo Born at emin7b5@shaw.ca

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Folk Music on the Beach – 2nd Fridays

Fri. Jan. 12 at the Hollyburn Sailing Club, **Feature: Fraser Union** and **Graham Baldwin** 1326 Argyle Ave., West Vancouver. \$10 at the door, BYOB. House band from 7:30-8 pm, featured performers from 8 pm – 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. Jan. 12 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

Jan. 19 Feature: [LJ Mounteney Blues Trio](#), with LJ joined by Tim Porter and Linda Kidder. **Opening: Songwriters "In the Round"** with four seasoned Vancouver songwriters – Lyndsay Wills, Natalie Rae, Matt Kennedy, and Dean Sawatsky. 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., Jan. 26 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.