

From: Vancouver Folk Song Society vanfolksong@gmail.com
Subject: VFSS events in July
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To: Vancouver Folk Song Society vanfolksong@gmail.com



Vancouver Folk Song Society

July 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, Aug 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.

Zoom – Now in stereo for laptops and desktops! *We have excellent cameras, mics chosen for musical performance, and lighting and room set-up to benefit the viewers at home as well as in the hall.*

We'd love to see you in person. But we understand that's not always possible. So join us via Zoom (live-streaming) for all or as much of the evening as you have time for. Even if we can't hear your applause, we know you're there.

Watch your email for the links when this is an option. It's almost always an option on the 3rd Wednesday of the month and we'll also list it in the newsletter when it's an option for other times.

VFSS Now with Cookies! Please bring your own mug to reduce (or even eliminate) the dishwashing task! See you downstairs! (Offer not available to our online viewers.)

Share songs, not bugs. *If you have [symptoms](#) — coughs, sniffles, fever, "just a cold," please join us safely over Zoom. We care about your good health and ours, too.*

Calling all Gordon Lightfoot fans! [Tribute Concert](#) on July 1 Canada Day. See details at the end of this email.

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 mug)
- **8:45 - 9:45** feature performers
- **10:00 pm** Doors close

5th Wednesdays Song circles on Zoom with breakout rooms if there are enough participants.

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

July 3

Open stage & features

In-person only

- **Steve Deering: Silly Sea Songs of the Heartland.** Thanks to his discovery of the VFSS seven years ago, Steve has taken to belting out songs in the company of others, especially traditional Scottish songs and (often silly) songs of the sea.
- **Lorraine Baker** – A lover of folk and western swing music, Lorraine also has a warm place in her heart for Canadian singer songwriters. She can often be found hanging out along rivers singing to the stars.
- **Shawn Bullshields** was born and raised in Southern Alberta and is a member of the Blackfoot Nation. A singer/guitarist with natural charisma, professional delivery, and a repertoire of pop, blues, country and folk, Shawn has been performing full time on Granville Island since 2015.
www.shawnbullshields.com
- **Re:Sisters** Sweet harmonies with strong messages. The Re:Sisters Barb Coward, De Whalen, Janet Dempsey, and Janet Hall) continue to develop a repertoire that showcases their voices and their hearts, from sisterhood and labour solidarity to love songs.

July 17

**First half
Online Song Circle**

**Second half
live-stream of the feature**

- **Maureen Hannah** hails from the Northern part of England and loves to sing the Geordie songs, usually with great choruses! Her warm tones and rousing style enliven songs from many different traditions.
- **Dylan Brown** is always digging for unique songs to share. Playing a variety of instruments, he explores traditional songs from across the British Isles, singing about heartbreak, tragedy, and the sea.
- **Jon Bartlett and Rika Ruebsaat**, both VFSS Life Members, specialize in BC songs, but also delve deep into other Canadian and foreign songs, mostly about work. Lots of chorus songs, too! **30-minute set.**

July 31

**5th Wednesday
online song circle**

“Doors” open at 7

We hope to see many of you at our 5th Wednesday online song circle. There will be opportunities to remember our dearly departed friends Laura Martin and Reed Schilbach.

It will start as usual with doors opening at 7 pm. There will be 5 main stage spots, followed by 2 break-out sessions, and 4 main stage spots after the break-out rooms.

pm

We'll end with the after-session at 9:30. The usual email notice and link will come to you the day before.

August 7

- **Robin Holmes** with his dramatic and diverse range of songs from traditions ranging from Russian folk to "Filk," that imaginative blend of science fiction and fantasy genres.
- **Dragonfly**, featuring **Gian Ward** on vocals and **Dave Adam** on acoustic and electric guitar, offer jazz standards, contemporary, and folk tunes, with warmth and style.
- **Bevan Bartlett** grew up singing traditional music. He has a penchant for ballads, airs, and laments (though he has been known to belt a shanty or three), and sings *a cappella*, or accompanied by guitar or reed drones.
- **Graham Baldwin** has played guitar and melodeon for over 30 years, performed in bands and with morris dancers. His repertoire includes acoustic and electric blues, folk, and "cheap pop crap," as he fondly calls it.

Aug 21

More details soon!

- **Thalia McIntosh**, self-taught singer/songwriter from Vancouver
- **Earle Peach**, singer, multi-instrumentalist, choir director, composer, and musical community activist
- **Steel Cut Notes**, formed in 2024, is a collection of friends who enjoy singing together -- George Beatty, Che Buffel, Jeremy Kashket, Yette Paterson-Gram and Andrew Russell.
- **Christina Ray + friends**. Often working behind the scenes to help invigorate VFSS, Christine is taking her turn at the front of the room to share the healing strength of singing.

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

Ventilation Doors and windows open as weather permits. HEPA air purifiers and a CO₂ monitor to check ventilation.

- **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.

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

VFSS news

Sat., July 13 Celebration of Life for Madeleine De Little 2 pm -11 pm at 23253 Francis Ave, Fort Langley. BYOB, BYOS (songs). There will be a Big Sing on the back porch with lots of folks you know. Come and help us say goodbye to [MDL](#). More details to come.

News from our friends south of the border

Laura Martin, our Zoom companion from Port Townsend, died on June 6 in her garden after a night of singing and dancing with community. Laura always took great care with the songs she shared, many of them old traditional favorites, and attended some of our retreats.

Reed Schilbach, a member of the Portland Folk Music Society, passed away on June 18. Along with her husband, Bill Buchan, she attended our Zoom sessions and our last two VFSS Retreats, bringing her strong voice and offering fine harmonies.

Let's sing while we still have breath for songs!

What a day! Vancouver Folk Song Society's 65th Anniversary Celebration

Singing, sharing, and lots of good food! Thanks to the organizing committee, session leaders, the volunteers throughout the day (registration and welcome table, kitchen elves keeping the snacks and hot and cold drinks going, bar staff, and more). And thanks to everyone who participated in some great music and conversation and company. Happy anniversary VFSS, and many more to come!

Sept 27-29 Annual September Retreat

The Retreat Committee for 2024 is happy to announce our annual retreat at **Camp Alexandra** where there will be great music, good food, lovely surroundings, and lots of opportunities make new friends and reunite with old ones (not literally, you know what I mean!).

Registration opens in early July. Details will be emailed and also available on our [website](#).

VFSS Folks Out and About

Fraser Union

- **Sat. July 6 Stand Up For Mental Health Comedy Society Fundraiser**

with comedy sets by SMH alumni and a 30-minute performance by Fraser Union. 3768 Triumph Street, Burnaby. Doors 5 to 7 pm: by donation. Limited seating, please reserve in advance: powell.debra1@gmail.com

- **Fri. July 12** feature at the Hollyburn Sailing Club, see **Folk Music on the Beach**, below.
- **Sun. Aug. 11** feature at the Victoria Folk Music Society, 1110 Hillside Ave, Victoria. Doors 7 pm. Open Stage 7:30 pm, feature at 9 pm \$8 at the door.

Any old books? Longtime VFSS member **Marian Buechert** is seeking donations of **Rise Up Singing!** books. Marian has started a singing circle in her new home of Qualicum/Parksville and no one has the "Blue Book." She'd like to start with at least a few copies to share. You can bring them to the Folk and Mary Armitage will forward them to the Island.

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, 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 – Note location of live events

Zoom on 1st and 3rd Thurs. Live on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month and last Sunday afternoon of each month. Live events at **City Heights Housing Society, 155 E. 37th Ave.** If there is no one in the lobby 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. July 12 at the Hollyburn Sailing Club, **Feature: Fraser Union** and the house band, The Hollyburner (with VFSS musicians **Steve Deering** and **Ken Hamer**). 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. July 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

at 8:30 pm. The evening finishes around 9:30 pm-10 pm. By donation. For more information, contact earlepeach@yahoo.ca

Beats on Broadway – 4th Friday

Fri., July 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

Barry Truter's just-released CD [Traveller 2](#) is a real treat. *"The album carries the listener on a journey through space and time, with influences ranging from the protest songs of Trinidad to the polyrhythms of South Africa, and from the early 20th century to the ultra-contemporary. Truter's arrangements are rich and varied, offering a listening experience that is both nourishing and refreshing."* -Christina Ray, Vancouver Folk Song Society

The following CDs are 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

Calling all Gordon Lightfoot fans! **[Tribute Concert on July 1 Canada Day](#)**

The late **Gordon Lightfoot** left us a decades-long legacy of music written from the heart. Whether you adore everything he recorded, have a few special favorites, or wonder how it would sound sung by... you might want to tune into a CBC Canada Day Special for a tribute concert. Performers include Murray McLaughlan, Serena Rider, Tom Cochrane, Sylvia Tyson, William Prince, and yes – Geddy Lee and Alex Lifeson of the rock band Rush. The concert will be available to stream on CBC Gem, and will be broadcast on CBC radio.

<https://www.cbc.ca/music/gordon-lightfoot-massey-hall-tribute-show-1.7246418>

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, with new favorites to discover, too.