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Vancouver Folk Song Society

September 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, Sept. 28** 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 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. 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 the dishwashing task! See you downstairs!

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.

Fri. Sept. 20 Join with the VFSS to sing for the Climate Strike Marchers. Details about time and meeting place, and practise session earlier in the week, are below, in **VFSS Folks Out and About** and our [website](#).

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.

September 4

In-person only

Songs of Working People

• **Roger Holdstock and Barry Truter**

As part of Fraser Union, Roger and Barry have been lending their powerful music to labour unions and justice movements for decades. Solo or part of a group, they bring strong musicianship, songwriting skills, and warm voices to their performances.

• **Marcus Hermary** has a passion for music, love of learning and a powerful voice, making him a must-see. Accompanying himself on banjo and guitar, he enjoys presenting traditional songs, including some BC favorites.

• **Pat Howard** loves the life and music of the commons, and of commoners, from the 1930s to present-day. She adds her harmonies to shanty sessions with The Lazy Jacks and plays and sings with the Burnaby Mountain Mamas. This time she's appearing solo and we hope she'll bring some of her own songs, too.

• **Yette Patterson-Gram:** Born and raised in East Van by a union rep and a blues musician, Yette is a member of CUPE 15, Out in Harmony community choir, and the Steel Cut Notes.

September 18

First half

In person:

Open stage

Zoom Online:

Song Circle

• **Mary Armitage** has been happily singing both traditional and contemporary folk songs, as well as writing her own material, since the '60s in London, UK. Landing in Canada, she's learned to play a variety of instruments and has enjoyed singing harmonies with her folky friends at the VFSS for over 15 years.

• **Steve Cleary** As a founding member of the Vancouver Morris Men and inspired by singing groups like the Watsons and The Copper Family, Steve carries an impressive repertoire of traditional and seasonal material. His fine, clear voice is its own musical instrument and he has led the Morris men in song at festivals and other performances, including Granville Island's Festival of Lights.

Second half

live-stream of the feature

- **Tim Readman** is a musician, singer, songwriter, music journalist, and more. Originally from County Durham, UK, he founded the Canadian Celtic/Folk band "Fear of Drinking" and has recently released an album of contemporary protest songs, to be released on Sept. 7 at Notional Space (see Announcements for details). Learn more at his [website](#).

- **JES Trio Jane Slemon, Ellen van der Hoeven and Susan Larkin**, bring a variety of wind and string instruments to their beautifully arranged original and cover songs. Not strictly traditional, their music is steeped in traditional songs and tunes. Be prepared for delightful harmony, warm humour and serious reflection.



Oct 2

In-person only.

First half

Open Stage

Second half

Features

- **Allison Campbell** is originally from Winnipeg, where her love of traditional music was fed by local coffeehouses, the Winnipeg Folk Festival, and "The Cultch," aka the West End Cultural Centre. Her definition of "traditional" has expanded over the years, and she loves the storytelling aspect of it. In Vancouver, Allison has found her musical family in local choirs, the morris dance community, and the VFSS, where she is part of [The Lazy Jacks](#), our local sea shanty crew.
- **Laura Creen** If Laura was a cat, with 9 lives and always landing on her feet, then recently moving to Vancouver would be the start of her 6th life. But back in her 3rd life, she was a salty, ocean sailor on traditional square-rigged ships. While she's happier climbing a hundred-foot mast than singing shanties to an audience - she's been persuaded the only cure for stage fright is to just do it. And if ever there was a kind audience to stand in front of, it's VFSS on a Wednesday night! She'll share a couple of old favourites for a bit of personal nostalgia.
- **Lucien** started his musical journey at age 18. His musical discipline soon grew into a passion as he was inspired by various folk artists and he is now often found busking throughout Vancouver. Lucien is continuing to grow his skills and meet other musicians through gigs and open mic nights.
- **Barry Truter** is a dedicated traveller and makes music from multiple traditions. Whether leading a resonant chorus, cooking up a Delta blues melody or

exploring polyphonic harmony, Barry always plays in the "Key of Connection." His strong solo skills also shine in Fraser Union's line-up, with whom he shares a strong interest in local stories.

Oct 16

**More details
coming soon!**

· **Features include Isa Hastings, Shirley Wiebe, and Sudanda!** An emerging singer-songwriter, a fabric artist expanding her skills into music, and a band of local musicians supporting a Sudanese composer, singer, and oud player.

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 now offers 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!

Sept 27-29 VFSS Annual September Retreat

Registration for the Annual Retreat at Camp Alexandra. In addition to great music, good food, and lovely surroundings, there will be lots of opportunities to make new friends and reunite with old ones. You can read full details on our [website](#) and pick up paper copies of a registration form at our Wednesday folk sessions. If you have other questions, or need a paper copy mailed to you, please email registrar@vfss.ca. A bursary fund is available to provide financial assistance. Please see the retreat page for details.

VFSS Folks Out and About

Tues., Sept 3 Graham Baldwin Come and dance with him (and the rest of the Vancouver Morris Men) at a free, introductory session. They're looking for new dancers to join them to learn and share this Vancouver (and global) tradition. **Lord Beaconsfield School, 3663 Penticton St., from 7 pm – 9 pm.** After practise, join them at a pub jam (and song) session at Off the Rail Brewery from 9 pm – 10:30 pm. Says Graham, *"September is when we shift from the quaint jolly hanky dances in the cute white costumes, to the darker and more sinister Border Morris, the winter variation in the black costumes and "Zorro" masks. This tradition is a lot easier and faster to learn, a quick learner could be performing for Hallowe'en, Guy Fawkes Day, and Winter Solstice. This is also the season where we haul out our*

lawkes Day, and Winter Solstice. This is also the season where we head out our mummers' plays."

This is a special practice session geared as an introduction to those who have had the fleeting thought that this looks *interesting*, but have been held back for any reason (including procrastination!).

Find more information, including the different styles of dances (handkerchiefs, sticks, deer antlers!), special events and performances, and performance videos at <https://vancouvermm.weebly.com/>

Sat., Sept. 14

- **The M&Ms (Michael Pratt, Lynn McGown, Michael Burnyeat and Roger Holdstock)** will be playing at 2:00 pm at the [Richmond Garlic Festival](#), at Richmond's Sharing Farm, 2771 Westminster Hwy. The festival also includes raptor demonstrations, a farmers' market, workshops and live music.
- **Fraser Union and Michael Pratt & Lynn McGown** Fundraiser for the [Stephen Lewis Foundation](#) Doors at 7:30 pm, Concert at 8 pm. Little Mountain Cohousing, 4985 Quebec St. Donate what you can to support grandmothers in Africa raising children orphaned by AIDS. **Space is limited, please RSVP** to holdstockroger@gmail.com

Fri. Sept. 20 Join with the VFSS to sing for the Climate Strike Marchers. The march will move from City Hall to the Art Gallery and the VFSS has been designated a spot to stand on the roadside and sing to the marchers as they pass. Meet at 11:30 at the Broadway-City Hall skytrain station by the Walking Figures on the just south of the station (same place as last year). We welcome all singers and musicians and will provide song sheets. For info on the practise session on Wednesday evening. Sept 11, see the vfss [website](#).

Sun., Oct. 27 Benefit Concert celebrating the release of Barry Truter's CD *Traveller 2 – Let Your Heart Lead*. Notional Space 1523 E. Pender Ave., Doors 2:30 pm, Concert 3 pm. By Donation, with proceeds to support [Last Door Society](#) and [Westminster House Society](#). Barry will be joined by Fraser-Henderson (Barb Fraser & Dennis Henderson); Tanglewood Duo (Emily Villavicencio & Noa Neuman); Phil Belanger, Don Fraser, and Max Pinsky; and Fraser Union (Roger Holdstock, Kathy Griffen, and Barry Truter).

How to stay in touch

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- 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

Tim Readman CD Release Listening Party

Sat., Sept 7 at Notional Space 1523 East Pender St., Doors at 7:30 pm, Music from 8 pm. By donation, in support of the Vancouver Food Bank. A listening party is an event to celebrate and promote the release of an album. This will be a chance to hear 'Songs from Eighth & Eighth' for the very first time on the day of its release, and chat with Tim afterwards about the songs. They are a popular way for an audience to connect with an artist and get an early preview of new recorded music.

Music & More OFF Main – 2nd Thursdays

Thurs., Sept. 5 ZOOM only Music and More coffeehouse. Meet at 7 pm, music starts at 7:30 pm. To get on the mailing list or receive a Zoom link, email Stoo Born at emin7b5@shaw.ca

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1st Friday change for Folk Music on the Beach

Fri. Sept. 6 at the Hollyburn Sailing Club, **Feature: Tim Readman and Just Duets.** Opening by the house band, The Hollyburner (with VFSS musicians **Steve Deering** and **Ken Hamer**. Note: Steve will be away for this date, but the band is still pretty good without him). 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

Deep Cove Coffee House 3rd Friday

Fri., Sept. 20 Fall Season Opens! Feature: Ally Jedrzejek Trio, Warm-up acts **John Lyon** (with Jessica Heaven and Mary Sparks), and **Guido Heistek**. Mount Seymour United Church, 1200 Parkgate Ave, Doors open: 7:00 pm, Warm-up acts: 7:30 pm, Feature act: 9 pm. Admission: \$20 includes baked goodies, coffee, teas, and cold drinks (Youth: \$5 / children & musicians: free).

Local Folk Resources

The following CDs are available at our in-person events or from our [website](#).

- ***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, with new favorites to discover, too.