

Vancouver Folk Song Society

November 2024

www.vfss.ca

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

Got news? Performing somewhere?

Contact us at vanfolksong@gmail.com by **Saturday, Nov. 30** 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.

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!

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.

About that traffic

Construction work is ongoing around Oak and 70th for sewer upgrades. According to the [City of Vancouver](#), this work will result in 1 km of new sewer pipes, with a life expectancy of approximately 100 years. It's currently a combined sewer system, and the new one will handle rainwater and sewage separately. The upgrade will manage heavier rainfall, accommodate the increased development in the Cambie corridor, and help protect the Fraser River's water quality. Scheduled to be completed "spring 2025."

Meanwhile, when we last checked:

- You **cannot** turn onto Osler from West 70th.
- You **can** turn onto Osler from West 71st, although it's marked as local traffic only.

Alternatives

If you don't need street parking within 50 yards of the Hall, consider parking on a side street north or south of West 70th and taking a short walk, perhaps with an umbrella.

Please leave plenty of time and bring patience with you and note our construction-free Zoom dates below.

Busy folks at the VFSS

There's lots of activity in the weeks ahead with VFSS members out and about, with concerts and a book launch! You'll find details in the news that follows our usual schedule.

New Year, new membership fees

The annual membership fees for the VFSS have been \$20 for individuals and \$30 for families for as long as anyone can remember and, for most of that time, those fees plus donations easily covered our annual costs and allowed us to build up a cushion against unexpected expenses. However, over the past four years, that cushion has been depleted by increased insurance premiums, website and Zoom subscription fees, and subsidies for our annual retreats and major anniversary celebrations. And now we are facing an almost 300% increase in our rental of the Quaker Meeting House starting in November (still a good deal compared to alternative venues!). Therefore, the VFSS Board has reluctantly concluded that an increase in our membership fees is finally necessary, to \$30 for individuals and \$40 for families, effective January 1, 2025.

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.

Nov. 6

In-person only.

First half
Open Stage

- **Steve Deering** – Thanks to his discovery of the VFSS in 2016, Steve has taken to belting out songs solo and in the company of others, mostly Scottish folk songs and (often silly) songs of the sea. His bodhran skills are steady and reliable, too. On this occasion, following so soon after Hallowe'en, Samhain, and Day of the Dead, he will take us to the graveside.

Second half
Features

- **Victoria Gibson** aka "Little Mamma," loves to sing and play many styles of music on electric guitar. She has written songs ever since she can remember and that is a long time now. For song videos and more, see <https://little-mamma.com/wp/>
- **Melanie Goestl** is back to wrap us in her warm and powerful voice with her "take-no-prisoners" lyrics. Her songs take us through heartbreak and then mend us with beauty. Joined tonight by Hagan Mitchell.
- **Between the Realms** is an eclectic band playing rock, blues, folk, pop, country and more. Haisla Collins (lead singer and

harmonica), Christina Laude (keys and vocals), and Neal Miskin (drums and vocals) have been playing together since 2021.

Nov. 20

First half

In person:

Open stage

Zoom Online:

Song Circle

Second half

Features live-stream on Zoom

- **Hugh Barr** was born and raised in Ireland's County Down, and also has strong roots in Scotland. His songs, presented acapella, draw upon both of these deep and generous traditions and transport you to quiet firesides and lively pub sessions. Hugh has been a longtime member of the VFSS, first joining in 1970.
- **The Honeyflowers** Betty Berda and Shelley Stevens met years ago at a music gathering and found a common interest in both their musical tastes and songwriting. Every time they performed together at open mics or house parties, people asked what band they were in and where they were playing next. As a result, The Honeyflowers were born. Influences include Gillian Welch, Kasey Chamber, Lucinda Williams and Emmylou Harris.
- **Michael Burnyeat** is an award-winning fiddler known for playing traditional fiddle tunes in a variety of genres. He is also a multi-instrumentalist, in-demand as a session musician, instructor, and recording artist.
- **Brian Robertson** is best known for his authentic, well-crafted songs about our region and its history, as well as universal themes of love, travel, social justice and the blues. A west coast original and longtime member of the VFSS, Brian's wit and warmth make him a genuine BC treasure.

Dec. 4

In-person only.

First half

Open Stage

- **Jeremy Kashkett & friends, Re:Sisters, Shawn Bullshields,** and more.

Some familiar faces, some new faces, and some curious collaborations! More details in the next newsletter and on our website.

Second half

Features

Dec. 18

"Winter Wednesday" Open stage all evening

We have 20 spots, 5 minutes each, and then will open a waiting list.

Please sign-up in advance by contacting Jim Edmondson jimedmondson@telus.net and let him know what you plan to sing so your MCs can arrange a sumptuous musical menu.

Let's make it a warm and friendly evening of chorus songs and well-known songs, together with fresh, ancient, or even esoteric songs. Ideas: Solstice (or Las Posadas, or Kwanzaa, or Hanukkah, or Festivus, or Christmas, or Saturnalia), fireside glow, or filthy

weather, drinking, missed loved ones, Christmas, gambolling in the snow, mufflers, carolling, reindeer, parodies, and celebrating Light.

We will provide mulled wine and Linda Chobotuck will bake another astounding gingerbread "edifice."

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!

VFSS Folks Out and About

Thurs. Nov. 7 Book Launch for [When Heroes Become Villains](#) by Jon Bartlett and Brian Robertson. Two historians (and fine singers) with a deep interest in BC history uncover lesser-known details of the lives of three so-called heroes whose names dot our provincial map – Helmcken, Trutch, and Bowser. They raise larger questions about who and what we "honour" in choosing and often superimposing names across the map of this province. **People's Co-op Bookstore** 1391 Commercial Drive., 7 pm – 9 pm. *Expect some singing.* And snacks.

Sat. Nov. 9 Open Door Music Concert with the **M&Ms** – Michael Pratt, Lynn McGown, and Michael Burnyeat. Michael Burnyeat will also appear as a duet with Kosta Bozhinov (accordion). Sing away those rainy day blues with these accomplished and experienced performers. 3271 West Broadway (near Alma). Doors at 7 pm, Concert at 7:30 pm. \$25 Reservations only. To save your seat, call 604-222-2299 or email michael@opendoormusicschool.ca. Please note this is a scent-free concert – no scents or perfumes.

Mon., Nov. 11 "Let Peace Be Their Memorial," the 9th annual event takes place at Vancouver Unitarians from 2 pm to 3:30 pm at 949 W 49th Ave, Vancouver. The event will be in-person at 49th and Oak in the Vancouver Unitarian Sanctuary and online via Youtube. In addition to 16 beautiful themed wreaths hand-made from natural greenery, there will be songs and anti-war poetry. Includes performances by **Re:Sisters, Fraser Union, Jim Edmondson**, and others. See PeacePoppies.ca/wreath-ceremony or email info@PeacePoppies.ca

Sun. Nov. 24 (Note correction to date) Double CD Release Party with Linda Chobotuck and Songtree (Earle Peach and Barbara Jackson). 2 pm at 411 Seniors' Centre, 3502 Fraser St (at 19th Ave.) Join the party for the release of two new CDs – Linda Chobotuck's *If I Sing: Songs of work, history, and the way things are*, and Songtree's *The Two Magicians*. Admission by donation. Come for live music, snacks, treats, and great singing! 604-874-1256 for more info.

Sat., Dec. 14 Bergamasca Ensemble with Betty McBurney and friends. They play a large collection of recorders and percussion instruments and their music ranges the ages from renaissance dance tunes to modern Christmas carols. They'll be performing in the afternoon at Old Hastings Mill Store Museum, 1575 Alma St. More details in next newsletter.

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. Next deadline is Saturday, Nov. 30.

OTHER EVENTS

Music & More OFF Main

Thurs., Nov. 7 ZOOM only Music and More coffeehouse. Meet at 7 pm, music starts at 7:30 pm. Feature 8:30 pm **Grant Elgaard**. To get on the mailing list or receive a Zoom link, email Stoo Born at emin7b5@shaw.ca

Folk Music on the Beach

Fri. Nov. 8 at the Hollyburn Sailing Club, **Features: Ask the Wind** and **Brian Robertson & Michael Burnyeat**. Opening by 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

Deep Cove Coffee House 3rd Friday

Nov. 15: Feature: Chris Ronald with opening acts: Brenda Bennett, Dragonfly (**Gian Ward & Dave Adam**). **Dec. 20: Feature: Ilhan Safareli**. Opening act TBS. 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).

Calling all buskers! Deadline Nov. 6

Translink is looking for musicians of all genres for its Busker Program. They offer a 12-month busking license, artist profile on TransLink's website, and opportunities to showcase (and sell) your music at 11 of the busiest TransLink's stations. The application can be done [online](#) and the deadline is **Wednesday, Nov. 6 at 11:50 pm**.

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

Congratulations to Willie Nelson

At the age of 91, the singer-songwriter-musician has just released his 76th solo studio album, his 153rd album overall. It's called "Last Leaf on the Tree" and the title track is a cover of a Tom Waits song. Coincidentally, Willie was part of the quartet called The Highway Men, which included Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings, and Kris Kristofferson. *"I'll be here through eternity. If you want to know how long, if they cut down this tree, I'll show up in a song."* Here's a live [version](#) he performed for Farm Aid in 2024.

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.