

Vancouver Folk Song Society

December 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, Dec. 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.

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 upgrade will result in separate systems for the sewage and rainwater, manage heavier rainfall, accommodate the increased development in the Cambie corridor, and protect the Fraser River's water quality. The infrastructure has an anticipated lifespan of 100 years, and is scheduled to be completed "spring 2025."

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.

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.

Dec. 4

In-person only.

First half
Open Stage

Second half
Features

- **Jeremy Kashkett & friends**, East Coast native turned Canuck, Jeremy has traded bagels for maple syrup. He sings mostly Irish songs, sea shanties, and songs stuck in his head. Jeremy will share part of his time with a certain set of steel cut notes.
- **Thokozani Mhlambi** Cellist, composer, and community builder, Thokozani's work has a reverence for the past and the future. He builds artistic visions using an internationalist methodology, inspired by the ground-breaking work of Pan-African philosophers like CLR James, WEB DuBois, HIE Dhlomo, and Paulo Freire.
- **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. His masterful singing voice expresses the full breadth of his personal life experiences.
- **Re:Sisters** (Barb Coward, De Whalen, Janet Dempsey, and Janet Hall) offer sweet harmonies with strong messages. They continue to develop a repertoire that showcases their voices and their hearts, from sisterhood and labour solidarity to love songs.

Dec. 18 "Winter Wednesday"

Live Stream all evening. No features tonight. Instead, we have a buffet of five-minute performances, pre-booked and arranged for an evening of good cheer.

Your MCs, **Jim Edmondson** and **Pat Howard**, will host a warm and friendly evening of chorus songs and well-known songs, together with fresh, ancient, or even esoteric songs. Themes may include 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."

Jan. 1 Resolve to have more live music in your life!

"Bells are ringing, bells are ringing. Peace and Love throughout the New Year."

Ring in the New Year with your friends at the Folk. No featured performers for this evening.

Jan. 15 Open Stage and features

**Songs of
Social and
Environmental
Justice**

- **Gram Partisans**
- **Jim Edmondson and the Intergenerationals**
- **And more!**

Details in the next newsletter

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

"In Dulci Jubilo" -- Bergamasca Recorder Consort (Betty McBurney and friends) is performing two concerts in December. There will be crumhorns, recorders of various sizes

and vintages, and singing – including the Huron Carol sung in Wendat, the language of the Huron First Nations.

- **Sun., Dec. 8 at 3 pm.** Trinity Lutheran Church 1880 APA Road, Point Roberts. By donation towards restoring the church.
- **Sat., Dec. 14 at 3 pm.** at Old Hastings Mill Museum 1575 Alma St. By donation to the Museum. The museum opens at 2:30 pm and seating for the concert upstairs opens at 2:45 pm.

Jenny Pluck Pears also has two concert this month. Playing music mostly from the English country dance traditions, from the 15th century to the present, you can hear them:

- **Sat., Dec. 7 from 1:30 to 3 pm** at Old Hastings Mill Museum 1575 Alma St. By donation to the Museum. They are performing on the main floor so you can enjoy the displays along with historical music.
- **Sun., Dec. 8 at 1:30 pm** at [Roedde House](#), Barclay St.

Sat., Dec. 7 Yule Tide Concert in Seattle or online. **Lynn Applegate**, our board member south of the border, invites us to the Maritime Folknet's Yule Tide Concert, an annual concert of maritime, seasonal, and holiday songs. The concert, [featuring](#) Tania Opland and Mike Freeman, Tim Hall, and Strikes a Bell starts at 7:30 pm at Woodland Park Methodist Church, 302 N 78th St., Seattle. Also [online](#), from the comfort of your own cozy chair.

Thurs., Dec. 12 Lazy Jacks Shanty Crew is the finale for The Vancouver Maritime Museum event, "[Light Up the Harbour.](#)" This free event runs from 6 pm to 8:30 pm, beginning with the False Creek Ferries Ballet, local children's choirs, free entrance to the Museum, and a chance to visit the Blue Cabin and other attractions at Heritage Harbour. Shanties start at 7:30 pm.

Sat., Dec. 14 The Harmony Mountain Singers are performing at The Shipyards Christmas Market in North Vancouver (125 Victory Ship Way) steps from the Seabus terminal. It's a free concert, and they'll be singing between 4 – 6 pm.

Jon Bartlett was recently featured in an enthusiastic article in [The British Columbia Review](#). It noted his range of recent publications, including *British Columbia's Songs of the Southern Interior*, a personal account of searching for vernacular songs telling our own stories, published with the VFSS and available at our events and online (soon), and his latest collaboration with Brian Robertson, *When Heroes Become Villains: Helmcken, Trutch, Bowers and the streets, lakes, and towns named after them* (New Star Books).

Lyn Pinkerton 1943-2024

Evelyn (Lyn) Pinkerton was a longtime and much-loved member of the VFSS. Her southern charm and generous heart animated her keen mind, deep knowledge, and genuine commitment to social and environmental justice. With her banjo, dulcimers, and fine warm voice, Lyn inspired us with her songs of Appalachian mining, West Coast fish farming, and the power of Unist'ot'en. Although Lyn's passing leaves a giant hole in our community, her quiet confidence that a better world is possible will continue to fill us up. Simon Fraser University, where Lyn taught for so many years, has a memorial [page](#) for her.

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 – Every Thursday

Music and More Off Main happens every Thursday, live on the second and fourth Thursdays at City Heights Housing Society, 155 E. 37th Avenue - all other Thursdays are on Zoom. Contact Stoo at fsharp5@gmail.com for more info or to get on the mailing list for live and/or Zoom meetings.

Folk Music on the Beach

Fri. Dec. 13 at the Hollyburn Sailing Club, 1326 Argyle Ave., West Vancouver. \$10 at the door, BYOB. Doors at 7 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

Dec. 20: Feature: Ilhan Saferali. Opening acts: **Manhattan Satin** and **Kristina Olsen.** 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.