

Vancouver Folk Song Society

March 2025

www.vfss.ca

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

Got news? Performing somewhere? Contact us at vanfolksong@gmail.com by **Saturday, March 29** 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.

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.

Schedule & Upcoming Events

VFSS Now with Cookies! Please bring your own mug to reduce the dishwashing task!

- **7:00 pm** Doors open
- **7:20 Harmony Jam** warm up our voices together as we start the evening with well-loved sing-along songs.
- **7:30 - 8:30** open stage. Come early to sign up!
- **8:30 - 8:45** tea break (bring your own mug)
- **8:45 - 9:45** feature performers
- **10:00 pm** Doors close

For events on Zoom, the link is sent to our mailing list the day before the event.

Welcome back to in-person 5th Wednesdays

Starting in April, the VFSS will be offering special, in-person programs on every 5th Wednesday.

Picking up on a long-standing VFSS tradition, these evenings will offer thematic programs, usually an opportunity for members to learn something new about a specific topic.

Upcoming 5th Wednesdays:

- April 30--led by Bevan Bartlett and Dylan Brown
- July 30--led by Jon Bartlett

Schedule of upcoming events

March 5 Features

**Open stage
& features**

In person only

Mar. 19

**Open stage
& features**

New format!

First half

Join an online sing-around OR view a livestream of the Open Stage performances from the Quaker Meeting House

Second half

Livestream of features

March 26

Annual General Meeting on Zoom

Link will be sent the day before the event

April 2

**Open stage
& features**

Celebrate International Women's Day with a tapestry of diverse women's voices. Bring a song to share on the Open Stage, and hear **The Re:Sisters, Heidi Harmer & Tiffany Kuhlmann, Isa Hastings, Yvette Gram-Patterson, Christina Ray** and more.

Re:Sisters The Re:Sisters continue to develop a repertoire that showcases their voices and their hearts, from sisterhood and labour solidarity to love songs. The Re:Sisters are Barb Coward, De Whalen, Janet Dempsey, and Janet Hall.

Songs of British Columbia!

In honour of VFSS founder and BC folksong collector Philip J. Thomas, we celebrate BC through music and song. We will have an extended open stage so more people can sing!

Features

- **Dylan Brown** Rapidly becoming one of our experts in the BC folksong tradition, Dylan always has some new treasure up his sleeve. Accompanying himself with guitar, accordion, piano, or a friend, Dylan's music will surprise and delight you.
- **Steel Cut Notes** enthusiastically embrace a range of folk traditions with their own sound and harmony. Listen with enjoyment and join in the chorus along with **George Beatty, Che Buffel, Jeremy Kashkett, Yvette Patterson-Gram, and Andrew Russell.**
- **Barry Truter with Michael Burnyeat** A genuine "Made in BC" set, featuring songs from Barry's recent album, Traveller 2, backed up by Vancouver's favourite fiddle champion. Like the people of BC, this duo can be upbeat, contemplative, and powerful by turn.

The VFSS event of the Year! Members only! On Zoom

Opens at 7:15 pm. Meeting starts at 7:30 pm. Hear reports of the year's events, vote to create the next Executive board, or stand for election yourself!

If you need to sign up or renew your membership, visit our membership [page](#). If you need to check your membership status, contact VFSS@shaw.ca

Features

- **Allie Lamont** is a young Indigenous performer living on the North Shore. She has been involved with music for 11 years and enjoys a range of different genres. Don't miss her powerful voice.
- **Jenny Arntzen** is a singer-songwriter focusing on the transformative experience of words and music to help us pull together through difficult times. Her roots in the folk tradition were sown as a toddler in the late 1950s when she was lulled to sleep while her parents performed in Vancouver's Question Mark cafe. Jenny's approach to music is based on an ecological

idea of fostering 'social ecologies of learning' through shared musical experiences.

- **Lazy Jacks Shanty Crew** are anything but lethargic, with raucous choruses, lively tunes, and saucy banter. They make it easy for audiences to join in, whether on old favorites or new offerings. www.lazyjacks.org

April 16

Features

More details on our [website](#) and in the next newsletter

Open stage & features

- **Graham Baldwin** – guitarist, melodeon player, morris dancer, and band member in a local folk/ceilidh band. Did we mention his musical family?
- **Jane Slemon** is a sensitive songwriter and flautist, muscular guitar player, and builder of musical community, including Erratica and JES.
- **Lucien** started his musical journey at age 18 and it grew into a passion. He can often be heard at the VFSS, where he delights the audience with his good humour and strong musicianship.

April 30

5th Wednesday

Join us as we revive our tradition of special themed presentations, starting with **Bevan Bartlett** and **Dylan Brown**.

In person

More information coming in the next newsletter and on our [website](#).

How to be a Feature: Sign up for your "15 minutes of fame" in the red binder's calendar at the Welcome desk at the Folk 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

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

VFSS members out and about

Tues., March 11 Graham Baldwin announces the **Spring Recruitment Drive** for new members of **Vancouver Morris Men**. They're holding a special "Morris 101" workshop – free – to introduce you to this English dance tradition. No experience needed. It's an Old Tradition, with different seasonal styles involving sticks, hankies, and lots of bells, with mumming plays for variety, a side of singing and possibly a pint or two at the end of it. The workshop is at Lord Beaconsfield School, 3663 Penticton St. from 7 pm – 9 pm, followed by a jam session at Off the Rail Brewery 1351 Adanac St. To learn more about the Vancouver Morris men, and find out what Graham gets up to when he's not singing at VFSS, see their [website](#). Or contact Graham gbaldwin.vmm@gmail.com.

Fraser Union on tour with its current configuration as a trio with **Barry Truter, Kathy Griffin,** and **Roger Holdstock.**

- **Fri., March 14 Feature at** Deep Cove Folk Club (Saanich), 10990 West Saanich Rd., Vancouver Island. Doors 7 pm. Music starts 7:30 pm. \$15 at the door
- **Sat. Mar. 22** with the M&Ms in Vancouver, see below
- **Fri., April 18 Feature at** Nanaimo Folk Connection, Hope Lutheran Church, 2174 Departure Bay Rd., Nanaimo. Music starts 7 pm. \$5 donation at the door.
- **Sat., April 19** Afternoon house concert in Victoria. Private function. Contact [Fraser Union](#) for more information.

Sat. Mar. 22 The M&Ms (Michael Pratt, Lynn McGown, and Michael Burnyeat) with Fraser Union. Welcome in the spring with a new set of beautiful songs to sing along with. Open Door Music School, 3721 West 10th Ave at Alma. Doors 7 pm, concert at 7:30 pm. Reservations only \$25. Book early, seating is limited. Please avoid wearing perfumes or scented products.

Sun., April 6 Barb Shaw invites us to a concert featuring "Sister Mary Barbara" and her twin sister, "[Random Old Lady](#)," at the Irish Heather for an evening of old and NEW original music, laughs, good food and grog as they celebrate the release of their new album! (And maybe record the next one...). The Irish Heather, 248 East Georgia St. \$15. Tickets available on [Eventbrite](#) - OR JUST COME!

In memory of Lyn Pinkerton

Evelyn (Lyn) Pinkerton (1943-2024) was a longtime and much-loved member of the VFSS for years. 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.

A Celebration of Lyn's Life is planned for **Thurs., March 20** from 2 pm to 5 pm at the Quaker Meeting House, 1090 West 70th Ave, at Osler (one block west of Oak). There will be refreshments, music, and a chance to share memories of Lyn.

Please RSVP by **Wednesday March 12** to jimmondson@telus.net to help us plan the refreshments order. Also, let us know if you would like to offer a song, a poem, or a personal story about Lyn so we can plan a program. Bring **a copy** of any photos you'd like to share. There will also be an opportunity to donation to a cause close to Lyn's heart (TBA).

If you're not able to make it to Lyn's Celebration of Life, we're looking into digitally streaming it so that you can hear and see the programmed part. Please contact jimmondson@telus.net.

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, Mar. 29.

OTHER EVENTS

Fri., March 14 Northwest Seaport Sea chantey sessions, presented with the NWSeaport Maritime Heritage Center. They're live **and on Zoom**. Find more details and sign up for the mailing list <http://www.nwseaport.org/chantey-sings.html> Upcoming sessions are Friday, Mar. 14, Apr. 11, and May 9.

Every Thursday - Music & More OFF Main

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.

2nd and Final Friday each month - 411 Coffeehouse

Coffeehouse hosted by Earle Peach, with Open stage and features. Doors at 7 pm, music at 7:30 pm. 3502 Fraser St. Call 604-874-1256 for information.

Local Folk Resources

The following books and 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

Need more chanties?

Steve Whinihan invites us to visit the Northwest Seaport Sea chantey sessions, presented with the NWSeaport Maritime Heritage Center. They're live **and on Zoom**. Find more details and sign up for the mailing list <http://www.nwseaport.org/chantey-sings.html> Upcoming sessions are Friday, Mar. 14, Apr. 11, and May 9.

Over 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.

Support Live Music! 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.