

Vancouver Folk Song Society

June 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, June 28** to be included in the next newsletter.

New Schedule (1st and 3rd Wednesdays)

New start time and schedule for more open stage time

- **6:30 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** pen stage. Come early to sign up!
- **8:30 - 8:45** tea break (Please bring your own mug)
- **8:45 - 9:30** More Open stage
- **9:30 Feature**
- **10 pm** Doors close

Please bring your own mug for break to reduce the dishwashing task!

Accessible Folk! The Friends Hall now offers elevator access for those using wheelchairs or other mobility aids. The entrance is from Osler St.

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

Upcoming VFSS Events

June 4

Features

New format!

**1 feature with
longer open
stage options**

Live only.

- **The Retreaters** Join us for the kind of songs you can expect to hear at the 2025 VFSS Retreat, performed by the retreat organizing crew: **Mary Armitage, Steve Deering, Graham Baldwin, Lynn Applegate, Elizabeth Dunn, and Sherryl Swann.** What a (re)treat!

June 18

VFSS 66th Anniversary Open Stage

**VFSS
Anniversary
Open Stage**

Open stage all evening. See separate announcement below for details and how to sign up in advance!

**Live streaming,
link set out the
previous day**

You must sign up in advance by email. See special announcement below.

Special anniversary cake by Linda Chobotuck!

July 2

Feature 30 Minutes -- Sudanda

**Songs
of Canada**

Sudanda was formed in 2004 around the music of **Alaaeldin Abdalla**, a composer, singer and oud player. Originally from the Sudan, he now lives in Vancouver. Alaaeldin's music draws on traditional Sudanese forms, and he composes music for contemporary Sudanese poets. Current band members include **Earle Peach** on guitar and bass, **Jane Kalmakoff** on accordion, **James Griffiths** on trumpet, **Pim van Geffen** on Trombone, and **Wesley Skakun** on percussion. For more info, see <https://jamesxgriffiths.wordpress.com/biography/>

July 16

Feature 30 Minutes -- ChrouTones

Members of the ChrouTones have performed in Canada, Europe, Japan and Mexico, playing a wide repertoire of crunchy folk, flavoured with jazz, blues, country and Latin influences. The ChrouTones' ingredients are Debi Wood (vocals), Wendy Solloway (bass), Sheila Allan (violin/mandolin), Scott Alpen (trumpet/ cajon/percussion) and Mike Allan (guitar).

**The next 5th
Wednesday
is July 30!**

Welcome back to in-person 5th Wednesdays!

In April, the VFSS picked up on its long-standing tradition of offering special, in-person, thematic programs on the 5th Wednesday! (Of months that have five Wednesdays.)

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

How to be a Feature: Chat with the features coordinator at the Welcome desk and check out the available dates in our calendar in the red binder.

Wed. June 18 Anniversary Event

Come all ye! Come and experience the joys of singing together in a beautiful evening of fine folk music in our lovely space at the Friends Hall on Osler and West 70th.

Live-streaming of the event for our online-only folks, link sent out the day before the event, as usual.

The format of the evening will be similar to the Retreat's Saturday night concert

- Sign up in advance by email

- Lead one song/piece and accompany another.

We'll be giving some priority to collaborations because they'll allow more folks to perform.

Sign up in advance by sending an email to bevvyswift@gmail.com with "Anniversary Concert" in the heading. Please include your name, and who you're performing with, if anyone. What you'll be singing. If your plans change before the event, please let us know by email to the same address

Please bring green tape and photos and memorabilia for display.

Changes to Open Stage make room for more performers

We've changed the format slightly to offer more Open Stage time. What will this look like?

- Most performers will be invited to perform a two-song set (10 min).
- There will be 3 slots for single-song sets (5 min).
- One pre-booked feature.

We hope this makes the open more interesting by encouraging you to use your two songs to tell a story, develop a theme, or have a "song-versation."

We also believe this format will be more attractive to new folks/potential performers, and that it will help all of us—as individuals and as a community—develop our musical skills.

To continue working to give everyone who wants the chance to perform, there will be an A-List (not performed last time) and a B-List (if there's time). And as always, we encourage collaboration!

To be successful, this new format needs you!

- Sign up as often as you can.
- Come out every time, even if you're not sure you will get to perform. Listen, appreciate, support, and learn.
- Invite your friends—both long-timers and new folks—to check us out, and to bring their 2-song sets with them.
- Consider collaborating with others, to enhance the evening with new sounds.

New Payment Options at VFSS

You can now "tap" to pay your membership dues, buy books, or make your donation at the Welcome Desk. VFSS accepts contactless payments ("tapping") by credit card, debit card, or digital wallet (like Apple Pay or Google Pay). We also continue to accept payments by cash, cheque, or Interac e-transfer.

VFSS Retreat September 26-28

Save the date! Our 2025 Retreat will be held this year at Camp Alexandra on September 26 - 28. The Registration Form and Sessions list will be available the first week in July, as

hard copies at the Hall, and viewable (and downloadable) on-line. We look forward to seeing you all in September.

VFSS Volunteer Opportunity Media Assistant

We are looking for an assistant to help with the once-a-month set-up, operation, and pack-up of the audio/video/computer equipment used for live-streaming performances from the Quaker Meeting House to our members and friends watching over the Internet via Zoom. To learn more, contact **Steve Deering** at vfss@shaw.ca.

VFSS 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/>

Goings-on Beyond Here

Robert Kotta Memorial Songwriting Contest-Deadline June 2!

This competition is sponsored by the Maritime Folknet, seeking songs about maritime life in the Northwest, past and present. Free to enter, with cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Open to BC residents, as well as those in Alaska, Washington, or Oregon. **Deadline June 2.** Full details are found on the Port Gamble Maritime Festival [website](#).

June 20th Deep Cove Coffeehouse

Feature: The Leora Cashe Trio, with Miles Black, piano, and Conrad Good, acoustic bass.
Opening acts: Linda Szentes, backed by the Brenda Baird on piano, with Attila Kollar on bass | **The Unmentionables**, Dave Myles and Luci Baja.

Mount Seymour United Church, 1200 Parkgate Ave., North Vancouver

Doors: 7:00pm, Opening acts: 7:30pm, Feature: 9:00pm Admission: \$20 cash only at the door - includes delicious baked goodies, dark roast decaf coffee, teas and cold lemon water (Youth: \$5 / children & musicians: free)

Every Thursday - Music & More OFF Main

Music and More Off Main happens 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.

Second 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.

Second Fridays – Northwest Seaport Sea Chanty sessions

Northwest Seaport Sea chantey sessions, presented with the NWSeaport Maritime Heritage Center, are live **and on Zoom**. Find more details (location changes monthly) and sign up for the mailing list <http://www.nwseaport.org/chantey-sings.html> **Upcoming sessions are June 13, July 11, Aug 8.**

Every Sunday – 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 Folk Club](#) offers live concerts from well-established performers to up-and-coming artists in a range of folk and blues, with hints of jazz and world music to flavour the event calendar. Check out their offerings!

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, June 28.**

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.

***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.

This email newsletter is sent to VFSS members and to subscribers by request.

To unsubscribe, go to vfss.ca/email-lists.