

Vancouver Folk Song Society

August 2025

www.vfss.ca

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

Got news? Performing somewhere? Email us **BEFORE FRIDAY AUGUST 29** at newsletter@vfss.ca or vanfolksong@gmail.com to be included in the next newsletter.

Yep! We're **STILL** looking!

For anyone who'd like to Give Back to The Folk!

The VFSS is still looking for an assistant to help with its **ONLY-Once-a-Month** set-up, operation, and pack-up of the audio/video/computer equipment (used for live-streaming the performances from the Quaker Meeting House to our members and friends, whose only way of viewing is online). To learn more, please contact **Steve Deering** at vfss@shaw.ca.

Aug/Sept Schedule (1st and 3rd Wednesdays)

First Wednesdays in August and September will continue to be live streamed to Zoom from the Quaker Meeting House. We will switch back from first to third Wednesday livestreaming in October.

Schedule:

- 6:30 pm Doors open.
- 7:10 – **Open Stage Sign-up:** Get here by 7:10 pm, with two connected songs, to sign up for the evening's Open Stage "potential performers" list.
- 7:20 – **Harmony Jam:** All together now! We'll warm up our voices and start the evening off with a few well-loved sing-along songs.
- 7:30 – **Open Stage Part I:** (2 songs max.)
- 8:30 – **Break Time:** Please bring your own mug.
- 8:45 – **Open Stage Part II:** (2 songs max.)
- 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 the building's Osler Street parking lot.

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

Upcoming VFSS Wednesdays

August 6
– after the Open
Stage Part II

**In person AND
Live-streamed**

Feature – Tim Readman

Tim Readman is a Vancouver-based musician, singer, songwriter, producer and music journalist, originally from County Durham, England. His musical output is eclectic and embraces a wide range of influences but most frequently he performs live in the realm of folk/Celtic music. He founded the Canadian Celtic/folk band *Fear of Drinking*, and played for years with *The Arrogant Worms*. Tim has recently completed an album of contemporary protest songs, *Songs from Eighth & Eight*. Listen to Tim at: www.timreadman.com

August 20
– after the Open
Stage Part II

In person only

Feature – Ellen van der Hoeven and George Beatty

Ellen van der Hoeven and **George Beatty** are well known to the VFSS, and you won't want to miss this mother-son duo! Ellen has been a member of the Folk for 35 years and George for just two, though he could have been considered a member throughout his childhood, really, and he says now that he has discovered the community that he had all along. If you are hoping for some fine family harmonies, you won't be disappointed!

Sept 3
– after the Open
Stage Part II

**In person AND
Live-streamed**

Feature – Re:Sisters

Tonight's Theme: **Songs of Working People**

Re:Sisters: Sweet harmonies with strong messages.

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.

Sept 17

In person only

Feature – TBA

More details on our [website](http://www.vfss.ca) (www.vfss.ca) and in the next newsletter.

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).

Our Open Stage Format

We've changed the format slightly to offer more Open Stage time.

- Artists will be given the opportunity to perform a two-song set (10 minutes, max).
- Three 5-minute timeslots will be held for three artists who would like to recite a poem or perform a single song.

We hope this makes the Open Stage 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 give everyone a chance to perform, there will be an A-List (those who didn't perform last time) and a B-List (if there's time). And, as always, **we Strongly encourage collaboration!**

To be successful, this new format needs you, to:

- 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 two-song sets with them!
- **Consider collaborating with others**, to enhance the evening with new sounds.

Sun Aug 31 – Afternoon Song Circle (2-5 pm)

Graham Baldwin's Back Yard: 155 Talisman Ave, Vancouver

- No pre-registration required.
- Theme: “Summer's End”
- Bring your own chair if you can.
- Tea and coffee provided; bring other beverages and snacks.
- If inclement weather occurs, event will be called off by email.

Fri Sept 26 to Sun Sept 28 – VFSS 2025 Retreat!

Register NOW! Our Retreat 2025 will be held again at Camp Alexandra, Crescent Beach (South Surrey), from **4:30pm Friday September 26 to 2:30pm Sunday September 28.**

The registration form and info sheets (Sessions list, Explainer for newbies, Details re: fees, food, and lodging) are available, online, at www.vfss.ca, and are also available in print, during our Wednesday Night Folk sessions in August and September.

PLEASE NOTE: The early-bird discount rate DEADLINE is August 31st!

We look forward to seeing you all in September!

VFSS Folk Out and About

The M & M's (Michael Pratt, Lynn McGown and Michael Burnyeat) are bringing their toe-tapping tunes and sing-along joy, songs to touch the heart and general merriment to two events in August.

- **Friday, Aug. 8 Feature: Folk Music at the Beach** at Hollyburn Sailing Club, 1325 Argyle Ave., West Vancouver. Doors 7:30. Feature at \$10 at the door. BYOB. Doors open at 7:30 pm, featured performers from 8 pm – 10 pm.
- **Saturday, Aug. 16 Richmond Garlic Festival** at 2 pm. At [The Sharing Farm](http://www.sharingfarm.com), 2771 Westminster Hwy. The festival runs from 10 am – 3 pm and entry is by donation.

Membership Dues / Donations / Books & CDs for sale!

The VFSS Welcome Desk (at the Wednesday Night Folk) is happy to accept almost every form of your money! Debit card, credit card, digital wallet (Apple Pay or Google Pay), cash, cheque, and e-transfer!

VFSS Resources

The following books and CDs are available at our in-person events or from our [website](http://www.vfss.ca).

- ***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

Thursdays in August – Music & More *OFF* Main is *ONline ONLY*.

Music and More Off Main will happen *ONline only, until September*, when it will resume its Live-plus-Zoom Thursdays. Contact Stoo at fsharp5@gmail.com for more info or to be added to the weekly mailing / zoom link list.

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 Aug 8th, Sept 12th, Oct 10th, and Nov 14th.

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., 6:45 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 newsletter@vfss.ca or vanfolksong@gmail.com. Next deadline **is Friday, August 29.**

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.