

Vancouver Folk Song Society

September 2025

www.vfss.ca

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

Got news? Performing somewhere? Email us **BEFORE FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 26** at newsletter@vfss.ca or vanfolksong@gmail.com to be included in the next newsletter.

Wednesday Night Folk (1st and 3rd Wednesdays)

The Wednesday Night Folk is the VFSS's flagship event; it has been running since 1959. Come out to perform two songs on the Open Stage, join in on the choruses, listen to others interpret this moment in the continuing folk tradition. A short feature performance rounds out the evening.

The Open Stage at the Wednesday Night Folk is always rich and varied. Come be part of it! Sign up on the Request List from 6:45 to 7:10 pm, and we'll get you on if we can!

Upcoming livestreams from the Quaker Meeting House:

September 3, October 15, November 19.

The Zoom link is sent out to our mailing list the day before the event.

In-House Start Time and 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 request 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. per person or group)
- 8:30 – **Break Time:** Please bring your own mug.
- 8:45 – **Open Stage Part II:** (2 songs max. per person or group)
- 9:40-ish – **Feature**
- 10 pm End of program.

Please bring your own mug to reduce the dishwashing task!

ACCESSIBLE FOLK! The Friends Hall offers elevator access for those using wheelchairs or other mobility aids. The entrance is from the building's Osler Street parking lot.

September Features at the Wednesday Night Folk

**1st WED,
SEPT 3**

**In person AND
Live-streamed**

Re:Sisters — Tonight's Theme: **SONGS OF WORKING PEOPLE**

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.**

**ALSO SEPT 3
(ALSO at the
Quaker Meeting
Hall)**

AT 8PM, THE VFSS WEBSITE LAUNCH PARTY WILL COMMENCE!

The new VFSS Website will be live by the evening of Sept. 3 (all things going well). The website crew is delighted, and looking forward to sharing the site with VFSS members and friends.

(After Sept. 3, check back often on vfss.ca to find the latest details about upcoming VFSS events, search out songs in our constantly-expanding VFSS archive, and see all the latest posts of interest in the digital Library.)

**3rd WED,
SEPT 17**

In person only

Guido Heistek has performed his music all over the world and has worked as an arranger and consultant for stage and film. But he is happiest at home in Vancouver, playing and teaching ukulele. Check out his cool videos and music resources at ukuleleinthedark.com

More event details and info on our website (www.vfss.ca) and in the next newsletter.

Mon Sept 15th is the LAST DAY to Register for the Retreat!

**Sept 26 (Fri) to
Sept 28 (Sun)**

VFSS RETREAT '25 – LAST-MINUTE SPOTS ARE GOING FAST!

Our Retreat 2025 will be held again at Camp Alexandra, South Surrey (Crescent Beach), **4:30pm Fri, Sept 26 to 2:30pm Sun, Sept 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 two Wednesday Night Folk sessions on September 3rd and 17th.

We look forward to seeing you all before summer comes to an end!

VFSS Folk Out and About

Tuesday September 2, (7-9pm) — Vancouver Morris Men newcomer workshop

Ever thought about joining the Morris? All you need to do is show up with some good footwear at Lord Beaconsfield Elementary School (3663 Penticton Street, East Vancouver). This special workshop will focus on the simpler (and yet more sinister) winter dances, to gear up for events such as Hallowe'en, Guy Fawkes Day, Winter Solstice, and

the mummers' plays. For more info: vancouvermm.weebly.com.

Friday October 10th at 8:00pm — Folk Music at the Beach

Tim Readman will feature at Folk Music Night (8:00-10:00pm) at the Hollyburn Sailing Club, 1326 Argyle Avenue, West Vancouver. \$10 at the door. (BYO food and drink).

Sunday November 2nd at 2pm — Benefit Concert for the Vancouver Food Bank

at Notional Space — Doors at 2pm Concert at 2.30pm. (1523 East Pender St, Vancouver)
A Concert of Folk and Protest Songs, featuring **Tim Readman**, **Allan Dionne** and **Gillian Hobbs**; **Fraser Union**; and **The Amorphous Folk Collective**.

In Memory of Claire Huff

Claire Joanne Huff, 92, of Vancouver BC, passed away on July 27 with her children by her side. Claire's passion for music and her involvement with the Vancouver Folk Song Society was boundless. She served as treasurer and, for several years, as the Folk's representative — literally! The VFSS logo, designed by her husband Jerry, was Claire's profile image. Please read more about Claire on the VFSS [website](#).

At **2:30pm on September 13th**, a memorial will be held at the family home, to share memories (and hopefully a song or two). Anyone wishing to attend in person is welcome to join the family at 8489 Nanaimo Street, Vancouver. To receive the Zoom link, please contact Claire's daughter, Sharon, at s.y.huff@gmail.com.

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 Interac e-transfer!

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 sailing ships on the Fraser River, sources for shanties, and the background of the songs.

To read more or order copies, go to <https://vfss.ca/order-form/>

Goings-on Beyond Here

Thursdays -- Music & More Off Main

Thursday night sessions (7 pm) are online — AND LIVE again (at City Heights Housing amenities room, 155 East 37th Ave). Contact Stoo at fsharp5@gmail.com for more info or to be added to the weekly email / zoom link list.

First Tuesdays — Vancouver Morris Men pub session

Off the Rail Brewery (1351 Adanac, East Van), 8 - 10:30. Come any time after 8 and start playing or singing when you're ready. The VMM shows up at 9, after their practice. While the main focus is on Morris tunes and English folk songs, we welcome other genres too! And note that we're always recruiting! vancouvermm.weebly.com.

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 Chantey sessions

Upcoming sessions are Sept 12th, Oct 10th, Nov 14th, and Dec 12th. The 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>.

Every Sunday – Over the Water to Vancouver Island

Check out the [Victoria Folk Music Society](http://vfmssociety.org) 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](http://roguefolkclub.com) 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 Folk resources.
- Contact us with news of an upcoming performance for the next newsletter at newsletter@vfss.ca or vanfolksong@gmail.com. **Next deadline is Friday, Sept 26.**

Health and Safety Matters!

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.