

# Vancouver Folk Song Society

October 2025

[www.vfss.ca](http://www.vfss.ca)

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

Got news? Performing somewhere? Email us **BEFORE FRIDAY OCT 31** at [vanfolksong@gmail.com](mailto:vanfolksong@gmail.com) to be included in the next newsletter. (Please include date of event, name of musician/group, venue address, door time, start time, payment and registration details.)

## 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 featured 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 before 7:10pm, and we'll get you on if we can!

## Upcoming Wednesday livestreams from the Quaker Meeting House:

October 15, November 19, December 17.

**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 one or two connected songs, to sign the Open Stage request list.
- 7:20 – **Harmony Jam:** All together now! We'll warm up our voices and start the evening off with a couple of 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)
- 9:30 – **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.

## October Features at the Wednesday Night Folk

**1st WED,  
OCT 1**  
**In person only**

[The] **Beautifully Loose Anti-choir** is an outdoor community choir, led by Martin Reisle ([www.martinreisle.com](http://www.martinreisle.com)). Accessibility, harmony (often in four parts), and everything Call-&-Response, taught line-by-line, then sung through together. For more info, see the VFSS [Events](#) page on the [www.vfss.ca](http://www.vfss.ca) website.

**3rd WED,  
OCT 15**  
**In person AND  
Live-streamed**

**Thalia McIntosh** is a self-taught singer/songwriter who shares her original music on YouTube and Instagram [@musicbythalia](#). She takes inspiration from large emotions, the beauty of nature, and of course the silly things in life. For more info, see the VFSS [Events](#) page on the [www.vfss.ca](http://www.vfss.ca) website.

**5th WED  
SPECIAL,  
OCT 29**

**Join Dylan Brown and Bevan Bartlett for Volume 2 of their  
HARMONY WORKSHOP!**

Do you love harmony? Have you found yourself wondering how some people seem able to come up with harmonies “on the fly”? Workshop leaders Bevan Bartlett and Dylan Brown provide more answers! (Attendance at the Volume 1 session is not a prerequisite!) Generously hosted in the Kerrisdale home of Brian Robertson and Beth Walters (2160 West 48 Ave., Vancouver). For more info and to register, see the VFSS [Events](#) page on the [www.vfss.ca](http://www.vfss.ca) website or email [music@dylanbrown.ca](mailto:music@dylanbrown.ca).

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

## **Sun Nov 23: VFSS Afternoon Song Circle (2–5pm)**

At the home of Ruth Walmsley & Tim Bartoo — Cranberry Commons Cohousing:  
4272 Albert Street, North Burnaby ([MAP](#))

- **RSVPs:** [ruth@cranberrycommons.ca](mailto:ruth@cranberrycommons.ca) (RSVPs appreciated but not required)
- **THEME:** “Freedom” - on whatever level you wish to engage with it. Or anything else that’s in your heart to share.
- **SNACKS:** Tea and coffee provided; feel free to bring other beverages and snacks.
- **PARKING – FREE:** on the street and in the parking lot beside the property.
- **BUSSES – EASY:** 4272 Albert Street is one block north of Hastings, between Gilmore and Willingdon. ([MAP](#))

## **VFSS Folk Out and About**

**Friday Oct 10 — Fraser Union AND Tim Readman** will each be featured at **Folk Music by the Beach**, at the Hollyburn Sailing Club (1326 Argyle Ave, West Van). Doors at 7:00pm; \$10 at the door; BYO Beverage and food.

**Thursday Oct 16 — Brian Robertson and Michael Burnyeat** in the Chinese Bunkhouse at the Britannia Shipyards (5180 Westwater Drive, Richmond [MAP](#)). Doors at 7pm; music at 7:30pm; \$15 at the door. Please check the Steveston Folk Guild's website for updates ([www.stevestonfolk.net](http://www.stevestonfolk.net)).

**Saturday Oct 18 — Lazy Jacks Shanty Crew** will be leading shanties at 3pm, at the [Old Hastings Mill Store Museum](#) Fall Market, which runs from 1–4pm. There will also be pumpkins for sale, bake sale, jumble sale and craft sale. Check the museum's [Events](#) page or the Lazy Jacks website ([www.lazyjacks.org](http://www.lazyjacks.org)) for updates.

**Friday Oct 24 — Fraser Union** in Victoria at the home of Kathleen Whipp and Jim Morrison on Bank Street in Gonzales. Doors at 7pm; music at 7:30pm. Suggested donation: \$10-\$20 at the door. To reserve tickets and RSVP, email [kwhipp1@telus.net](mailto:kwhipp1@telus.net). BYOBeverage and a snack to share (opt.)

**Saturday Oct 25 — Fraser Union House Concert** in Nanaimo at Pacific Gardens Cohousing Community (347 Seventh St., Nanaimo). Doors at 2pm; music at 2:30pm. Suggested donation: \$10-\$20 at the door. To reserve tickets, email [sinjin.dw@gmail.com](mailto:sinjin.dw@gmail.com).

**Saturday Nov 1 — Brian Robertson and Michael Burnyeat House Concert.** In the home of Brian Robertson and Beth Walters (2160 West 48 Ave., Vancouver). Doors at 7pm, music at 7:45pm. Snacks from Beth's kitchen and hot beverages included; BYOB if desired. \$25 per seat, reservable and auto-deposit payable by email to [robertsonb@shaw.ca](mailto:robertsonb@shaw.ca).

**Sunday Nov 2 — Tim Readman with Allan Dionne and Gillian Hobbs, The Amorphous Folk Collective, and Fraser Union** will perform a **Charitable Benefit Concert for the Greater Vancouver Food Bank**, at Notional Space (1523 East Pender St, Vancouver). Doors at 2pm (Please give generously!) Music at 2:30pm.

## In the [VFSS.ca](#) Website Corner

- **Featured Post:** [VFSS at the Draw the Line March](#) (Sat, Sept 20th, 2025)
- **From the Archives:** [VFSS Members Interview — Brian Robertson](#) (2025)

## 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 to order copies, go to our online [Order Form](#).

## Goings-on Beyond Here

### First Tuesdays — Vancouver Morris Men pub sessions

Off the Rail Brewery (1351 Adanac, East Van), 8 - 10:30 pm. Come any time after 8pm and start playing or singing when you're ready. The VMM shows up at 9pm 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! For more info, go to [vancouvermm.weebly.com](http://vancouvermm.weebly.com).

### Thursdays – Music & More Off Main

All sessions start at 7pm; music at 7:30pm. The first three Thursdays are LIVE again (at City Heights Housing amenities room, 155 East 37 Ave., Vancouver); the fourth and fifth Thursdays happen online. (This schedule may change in January.) Contact Stoo at [fsharp5@gmail.com](mailto:fsharp5@gmail.com) for more info or to be added to the weekly email / zoom link list.

### Second and Final Fridays - 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 Oct 10, Nov 14, Dec 12, and Jan 9. 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 [www.nwseaport.org/chantey-sings](http://www.nwseaport.org/chantey-sings).

### 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 at [www.roguefolk.bc.ca](http://www.roguefolk.bc.ca)!

## How to Stay in Touch

- With [Facebook](#) and [Youtube](#), you can view the news and photos we share there.
- Our website ([vfss.ca](http://vfss.ca)) 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 [vanfolksong@gmail.com](mailto:vanfolksong@gmail.com). **Next deadline is Friday, October 31.**

## 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 subscribe or unsubscribe** (or for any other info), go to our website's [email-lists](#) page.