

Vancouver Folk Song Society

November 2025

www.vfss.ca

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

Got news? Performing somewhere? Email us **BEFORE FRIDAY November 28** at 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 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 before 7:10pm, and we'll get you on if we can!

Upcoming Wednesday livestreams from the Quaker Meeting House:

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 pm – **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 pm – **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 pm – **Open Stage Part I**
- 8:30 pm – **Break:** Please bring your own mug.
- 8:45 pm – **Open Stage Part II**
- 9:30 pm – **Feature**
- 10 pm Doors close, lights out, good night!

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.

November Features

WED, Nov. 5 **Open Stage and Feature**
In person only Feature **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 most happy here at home in Vancouver, playing and teaching ukulele. Check out his cool videos and music resources at <https://ukuleleinthedark.com/>.

WED, Nov. 19 **Open Stage Theme “Singing the Tradition” and Feature**
In person & Livestream Bring and enjoy traditional songs. See VFSS [website](#) for more on traditional songs.
Link emailed to you on Tuesday. **Feature Leah Williams and Mark Dowding** They have been performing as a duo for 25 years, creating storytelling magic through thoughtful and expressive lyrics framed by instrumental counterpoint on guitar, flute, whistle, recorder, quena and harmonica.

WED. Dec. 3 **Open Stage and Feature**
Live only Feature [Kip Johnson](#) (he/him) is a multi-instrumentalist and singer from Monterey, California, whose musical journey has taken him across North America. After several years in Nova Scotia, Kip returned to the west coast and currently lives in Vancouver. An accomplished performer on guitar, mandolin, banjo, and bouzouki, Kip's music draws on the folk and traditional songs he encountered on the east coast from collectors like Helen Creighton and Francis Child. Kip is also a professional choral singer, composer, and conductor. He currently sings with the Vancouver Chamber Choir and Christ Church Cathedral Choir.

WED. Dec. 17 **Our Annual Winter Solstice event. More details coming soon!**
Livestream

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

Our Website Corner

The new VFSS [website](#) has launched--click [here](#) for the story. Visit us regularly to check out upcoming events, folk resources, and much more.

New! Read an interview with Christina Ray and Dylan Brown about the VFSS in the national online magazine Rootsmusic.ca.

From the archives this month: [Phil Thomas & friends at Expo 86](#).

Do you have something you want to contribute? Contact us at resources@vfss.ca if you want to post something on the website, or if you have archival items (VFSS photos, recordings, posters, etc). Thank you!

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 (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

First Tuesdays of the month — Vancouver Morris Men pub sessions

Graham Baldwin hosts monthly music sessions at Off the Rail Brewery (1351 Adanac, East Van), 8 - 10:30 pm. Come any time after 8 pm and start playing or singing when you're ready. The VMM shows up at 9 pm 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.

Tuesday, Nov. 11 "Let Peace Be Their Memorial" Join us for the 19th annual ceremony of remembrance at Seaforth Peace Park (Burrard and 1st Ave) from 2 pm to 3:30 pm. for songs, poetry, and wreath-laying to remember civilian victims of conflict. Co-hosted by Vancouver Peace Poppies, Vancouver Unitarians, and BC Humanist Association. Includes performances by Re:Sisters, Fraser Union, Jim Edmondson, and others. Parking is limited, but there are good bus options. See [PeacePoppies](#) for more information.

Saturday, Nov. 15 Karla Mundy Presents [Tapestry](#), featuring Rhythm ‘n’ Roots Choir (includes “our own” Barry Truter), Ukrainian Choir Kolo (directed by Oleksiy Grynishyn), and Cuban musicians Javier Delgado and Michel Rivero. 7:30 pm Canadian Memorial United Church (1806 W. 15th). \$25 [Tickets](#) in advance.

Sunday, Nov. 16 Illiteratty in concert in support of the [Indian Residential School Survivors' Society](#). Notional Space at 1523 E Pender St. Doors 2:30 pm, music at 3 pm. Suggested [donation](#) \$20.

Sunday, Nov. 16 Random Old Lady and Sister Mary Barbara “team up” to bring their own special brand of music and comedy. 4-7 pm, Irish Heather Shebeen, 284 E. Georgia St. By donation.

Saturday, Nov. 22 Left Coast Labour Chorus presents “Sing About It!” 3 pm – 5 pm, 411 Seniors’ Centre, 3502 Fraser St. Including: The Re:Sisters, Jim Edmondson, Roger Holdstock and Lucien for a warm afternoon of intergenerational music for peace and justice. Includes a singalong led by Jim and songs by Left Coast, including the premiere of a Peggy Seeger song accompanied by its arranger Tom Arntzen. Other performers include Stone’s Throw, and the Beautifully Loose Anti-Choir, both recent guests at the VFSS. Tasty refreshments and raffle basket. Proceeds to the Gaza Soup Kitchen. **411 Seniors’ Centre, 3502 Fraser St., 3 pm – 5 pm.** The venue is small, so get your [tickets](#) now.

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

Tuesday afternoon Therapeutic Drumming with Barbara Shaw

2 – 3 pm until Dec. 16. Free. Instruments provided or bring your own. Raycam Community Centre , 920 E Hastings St.

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 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.

Third Friday of the month [Deep Cove Coffee House](#)

Mount Seymour United Church, 1200 Parkgate Avenue, North Vancouver. Doors: 7:00pm, Opening acts: 7:30pm - 8:30pm, Break: 8:30, Feature: 9:00pm - 10:00pm. \$20 cash only at the door (includes coffee & baked goodies).

Feature Nov. 21 Jazz vocalist Karin Plato and ukulele and guitar maven Guido Heistek. Opening acts Joanne Finnamore, Robby Anchant, John Vavrik, and Steve Britton; Stone's Throw (Emily Villavicencio and James Griffiths).

Saturday, Dec. 6 Yule Tide Concert

Join our VFSS pals in the USA for a Yule Tide Concert, organized by the [Maritime Folknet](#). Featuring Shanghaied on the Willamette, Zeke & Flip, and Gather Round. Woodland Park Methodist Church, 302 N 78th St., Seattle. Ticket info [here](#).

Second Fridays of the Month– 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.

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!

How to Stay in Touch

- With [Facebook](#) and [Youtube](#), you can view the news and photos we share there.
- Our website ([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. **Next deadline is Friday, November 28.**

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 subscribe or unsubscribe (or for any other info), go to our website's [email-lists](#) page.