

Vancouver Folk Song Society

January 2026

www.vfss.ca

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

Got news? Performing somewhere? Email us **BY THE END OF DAY THURSDAY January 29** at vanfolksong@gmail.com or complete the [form on our website](#) 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)

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! Come early and socialize before we start singing!

Upcoming Wednesday livestreams from the Quaker Meeting House:

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

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.

January Features

January 7

Open stage and feature-Gillian Hobbs

Live only

[Gillian](#) is a folk-pop singer/songwriter from Vancouver, BC. After hanging up her guitar for a career in healthcare, she returned to songwriting during the pandemic, reminded of what a powerful tool music can be for healing and connection. A theme that runs through much of her music is that, no matter what you're feeling, you're not alone.

She rejoins the Vancouver scene after a decade-plus hiatus and a stint in Nashville learning from Grammy-nominated songwriters like Mary Gauthier, Bonnie J. Baker, Beth Nielsen Chapman and Gretchen Peters with new tunes that span the personal and the political.

Jan. 21

Theme Night: Building a Better World - Gram Partisans

Live and streaming

The **Gram Partisans** are a Vancouver-based roots folk group whose music combines our collective respect for many diverse musical traditions with our beliefs in hope, integrity, justice and a long memory. We play mostly original songs that tell stories of courage, trust, imagination, and solidarity. We seek to challenge your views of what music rooted in social justice can sound and feel like. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

More information to come next month on the features for February 4 (live only), and February 18 (live and streaming).

VFSS Song Circle Sunday – Women Sharing Songs

Sun., Feb. 1 Barb Coward hosts **Women's Song Circle**. An afternoon of women sharing songs, no special theme. 2 pm – 5 pm. Space is limited so email Barb cowardbarb@hotmail.com to ensure you have a seat. Snack contributions welcome. Located on great bus routes in Dunbar/King Edward area. Barb will provide exact address when you email to reserve your space.

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.

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!

VFSS Folk Out and About

Fri., Jan. 9 **Gram Partisans** are the feature at the Port Coquitlam Crossroads Hospice [Coffeehouse](#) The Gathering Place (Michael Wright Art Gallery) 1100-2253

Leigh Square, Port Coquitlam \$10 suggested donation. Coffee, tea, cookies. Bring your own mug if you can. Doors 7 pm, 1st Feature 7:30, 2nd Feature 8:50

Fri., Feb. 27 Benefit Concert for Gaza – Vostok, Dafa Band, Tom Landa, Tanglewood Trio Canadian Memorial Church, 7:30 PM. Performers are Eastern European and Balkan vocal trio Vostok, Palestinian music group Dafa Band, Tom Landa of the Paperboys and Locarno, and The Tanglewood Trio. Emily Villavicencio, who performed with her brother James Griffiths at a recent VFSS gathering, performs with both Vostok and Tanglewood. Hope to see you there! Tickets will be available soon, for now save the date and click "going" on the Facebook Event.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/821919857008724>

First Tuesdays of the month — Vancouver Morris Men pub sessions

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, including some VFSS members, 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.

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

Thursdays -- Music & More Off Main

All sessions start at 7pm; music at 7:30pm. In January there will be LIVE sessions on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Thursdays of the month (at City Heights Housing amenities room, 155 East 37 Ave., Vancouver); the fifth Thursday will be online. In future months, the first three Thursdays are live and the fourth and fifth Thursdays are online. Contact Stoo at fsharp5@gmail.com for more info or to be added to the weekly email / zoom link list.

Third Thursdays of the month [Steveston Folk Guild](#)

Doors at 7 pm Show time 7.30 pm \$15.00 at the door Chinese Bunkhouse at Britannia Shipyard, 5180 Westwater Dr., Steveston.

Second and Last Fridays of the month - 411 Coffeehouse

Hosted by Barbara Jackson and Earle Peach, this is a friendly community open stage with a feature performer each night. 411 Seniors' Centre, 3502 Fraser St. Doors at 7 pm, music at 7:30 pm. Entry is by donation, and free snacks and coffee are provided. For more information, contact barbarajeanejackson@yahoo.ca or earlepeach@yahoo.ca.

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). **Jan.16 Feature: Doc Fingers & Tom Keenlyside**, Opening acts: Tom Rawsonn | JES Trio - Jane Slemon, Ellen van der Hoeven, and Susan Larkin.

Second Fridays of the Month– Northwest Seaport Sea Chantey sessions

Upcoming sessions are Jan 9, Feb 13, Mar 13, and Apr 10. 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 or by completing the form on [our website](#). Next deadline is Thursday, January 29.

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.