

Vancouver Folk Song Society

February 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 February 26** 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.

February Features

February 4	Open stage and feature- Rika Ruebsaat
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Live only	Rika Ruebsaat , a beloved Life Member of the VFSS, specializes in BC songs, but also delves deep into other Canadian and foreign songs, mostly about work. She loves chorus songs, too!
February 18	Open stage and feature- Sacred Harp
Live and streaming	Sacred Harp is four-part acapella music characterized by haunting harmonies, traditional modes, serene hymns, fast fugues, and a certain unpolished sound. This style of singing is called “shape note singing” because the musical notation uses note heads in 4 distinct shapes, designed to help beginners to read music. The Sacred Harp is the name of our tunebook and also refers to the human voice as an instrument. Originally a Christian tradition, as reflected in the lyrics, Sacred Harp is open to singers of any or no belief system. It is social, participatory music-making: no auditions, no director, no audience, and no performances. Consider this feature a demonstration, rather than a performance. We will present a selection of characteristic songs and tell you a little about the history, traditions, and method. We’ll also give a quick lesson so that we can sing a song together.

March Features

March 4	Theme Night- Women’s Night at the Folk
Live only	In honour of International Women’s Day Come celebrate a diversity of women’s voices! To perform, please sign up in advance at https://vfss.ca/events/ Women, women-led acts and collaborations will be prioritized. Individuals (solo or with friends): 1 song each Established groups: 2-3 songs each, as space permits.
March 18	Open stage and feature- The Alouettes!
Live and streaming	More information to come.

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.

From the archives this month: [BC Teachers Protest Songs from 1980](#)

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

Sat, Feb 14, Lazy Jacks at the Hastings Mill Museum

The VFSS Shanty Crew, The Lazy Jacks, will be performing at the Hastings Mill Museum (1575 Alma St, Vancouver), starting very shortly after 2 PM, following a bagpiper and then a dancer.

The museum opens at 1:00 PM and has special "Our Global Village" programming for the Family Day Weekend, as well as its awesome collection of artifacts.

For more information, visit <https://hastingsmillmuseum.ca/>

Sat. Feb 14, Songs of Love and Heartbreak– Bevan Bartlett & Dylan Brown (feat. Emmalena Fredriksson), and Lynn McGown and Michael Pratt

Valentine's Day performance *Songs of Love and Heartbreak* at the Open Door Music School (3721 W 10th Ave), door at 7, show at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$25, reservations only 604-222-2299.

Bevan Bartlett & Dylan Brown breathe new life into old songs with strong voices, juicy two-part harmony, and tasteful accompaniment. They are joined by **Emmalena Fredriksson** - who sings traditional songs both mystical and tragic, in English and her mother tongue, Swedish.

Lynn McGown and Michael Pratt have an infectious love of singing that has delighted audiences in Vancouver for forty years. "They sing with a wonderful sense of fun, passion and with harmonies both beautiful and unique".

More information at www.opendoormusicschool.ca

Tickets are \$42-\$49 (\$30 Seniors/Students). Find out more at <https://www.firehallartscentre.ca/event/house-of-folk-a-lost-folk-canadian-show/>

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>

Fri., Feb. 27 [Fraser Union](#) will be the feature at **411 Coffeehouse**. See **Goings On Beyond Here** for details.

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.

Mar 6-8 – Georgia Strait Music Camp Spring Jam

The Georgia Strait Music Camp's Spring Jam runs the weekend of March 6th to 8th at Camp Alexandra. Info and details on the website. <https://gsmusiccamp.ca/>

Sun. Mar 15 – VFSS Song Circle

A more casual and relaxed song circle format with no theme, from 2-5 PM on Sunday March 15, at Grace Shaw's house (3847 West 38th ave, west of Dunbar). Bring a friend who's new to the VFSS!
Capacity is 30 people, first come first served. Please contact Jim Edmondson to register at jimedmondson@telus.net

Song Circle Etiquette: When your turn comes around, you can pass, you can make a request of someone else, or you can lead a song and experience doing that in a supportive caring environment. In addition to introductions, we are encouraging commenting on any previous songs and making links. Remember to say if you want others to join you instrumentally and/or vocally. We won't accompany you unless you ask.

Access: Several steps up from the sidewalk, with 8 steps up to the house and bathroom on the main floor.

Drinks and Food: Grace will make a non-alcoholic punch. BYO alcohol. Please bring finger food goodies to share.

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](#).

Of Interest: *The Lullaby Project*

Featured on CBC Radio *North by Northwest*, Executive director Laura Barron and participating musician Aria talk about The Lullaby Project, which pairs parents and professional musicians to write personalized lullabies for their children, then record in their own voices.

You can listen to the 20-minute audio at <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-43-north-by-northwest/clip/16194067-slumber-season-the-lullaby-project>

Remembering Paul Norton

Vancouver's music community has learned of the recent death of [Paul Norton](#), partner of Sue Malcolm (Slow Jam, Soda Crackers, founder of the Pacific Bluegrass and Heritage Society, and teacher). Paul hosted various music programs on CiTR-FM and CFRO, and was involved in the Vancouver Folk Music Festival, Coastal Jazz, and the Pacific Bluegrass and Heritage Society. We send our condolences to Sue.

Goings-on Beyond Here

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. 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. **Ask the Wind** folk trio is the feature on Feb. 19th.

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. VFSS Members **Fraser Union** will be the feature performers on Feb. 27.

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).

Second Fridays of the Month– Northwest Seaport Sea Chantey sessions

Upcoming sessions are 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.

Sat. Feb 14 – Sun. Mar 8, House of Folk: A Lost Canadian Folk Show

At the Firehall Arts Centre, 280 E. Cordova, House of Folk: A Lost Canadian Folk Show, with both matinee (3:00 PM) and evening (7:30 PM) performances. Running time ~2 hours.

House of Folk features **Michelle Bouey, Steve Charles, Ben Elliott, Jack Garton and Caitriona Murphy** playing over sixteen instruments. Set in the 1960s during the height of the Canadian folk music revival, House of Folk takes us to a time when coffeehouses from coast to coast were filled with song and spirit, and became a source for conversation, communion, and personal revolution. From Joni Mitchell to Leonard Cohen and Neil Young to Gordon Lightfoot and more, House of Folk: A Lost Canadian Folk Show uncovers the incredible voices and music of the artists who lived it, the artists who had the courage to step up to the mic, and the artists who asked us to listen.

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