

Vancouver Folk Song Society

March 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 March 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.)

Notice to VFSS Members: Annual General Meeting, Wed. March 25, 2026

If you're uncertain about your membership status, check in with the membership secretary at registrar@vfss.ca

The AGM will be on-line, at 7:30pm.

Zoom link and full agenda coming to you on March 10, and the Zoom link, full agenda and all reports from the year's activities will be sent to you the weekend of March 21–22.

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 up for 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.

March Features

March 4 Live and streaming	Theme Night- Women's Night at the Folk In honour of International Women's Day Come celebrate a diversity of women's voices with performances from over 30 women of the VFSS!
March 15 In person only	VFSS Afternoon Song Circle Song circle with no theme, on Sunday March 15, from 2–5 pm For more information, and how to register to attend, see below in VFSS Out and About .
March 18 Live and streaming	Open stage and feature- The Alouette Sisters The Alouette Sisters met within the movement to stop the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion (TMX) pipeline. As the “arrestable core” of the Prayer Circle Direct Action group, they applied peaceful civil disobedience to stop work and protect land and water around the Brunette River. In 2021, Catherine, Ruth and Janette were arrested and sentenced to nine days at the Alouette Women's Correctional Centre. While incarcerated, they discovered their love of singing together in 3-part harmony. After their release, they were reunited with Christine, and joined in song and creative expression by Barb. These women stand on the shoulders of the hundreds of land and water defenders arrested since 2018 for acting to stop TMX, to honour Indigenous title and rights, and to prevent catastrophic climate change. Both peaceful and flowing, punchy and powerful, the Alouette Sisters pour meaning and heart into their intertwining voices. Find out more here . Find our YouTube channel here . Sing along with our RBC song .

April Features

April 1 Live only	Open stage and feature TBA
April 15 Live and streaming	Open stage and feature TBA

April 29

VFSS 5th Wednesday

Bringing Old Songs to Life: De-mystifying the Reclamation and Transference of Traditional Song

Where: TBA in April newsletter, and at www.vfss.ca

When: April 29th, 7-10pm.

No registration required.

This 5th Wednesday “Special” will be chaired by Bevan Bartlett and will include a panel discussion – featuring an array of voices from across the generational and musical background spectrum – as well as an instructional component led by Dylan Brown.

Questions under discussion will be: Where do we find songs? How do we pick songs? How and where do we sing which songs?

This evening is for anyone looking to broaden or deepen their traditional song repertoire, and their relationship with our song traditions. Come dig into it with us!

Our Website Corner

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

- Check out upcoming events and folk resources at the new VFSS website: vfss.ca
- VFSS in the Community: VFSS group brings a joyful singalong to the “House of Folk” play at the Firehall. Blogpost coming soon.
- From the VFSS Archives this month: What was happening at our own “House of Folk” in 1961? [Songs from the Question Mark Cafe, 1961](#)

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

VFSS Folk Out and About

Tues. Mar 3: Vancouver Morris Men Newcomer Workshop and pub session

Tuesday March 3, 7-9pm at the Al Mattison Lounge at Britannia Community Centre: <https://britanniacentre.org/55-centre/>

Ever thought about joining the Morris? We have much to offer! Here's the list: <https://vancouvermm.weebly.com/join.html> All you need to do is show up with some good footwear!

It will be followed by our pub jam session at Off The Rail Brewery (1351 Adanac, East Van), from 9-10:30. <https://offtherailbrewing.com/contact/>, While you are welcome to show up on any Tuesday, this special workshop will be specifically catering to newcomers interested in joining. More information here: <https://vancouvermm.weebly.com/>

Fri. Mar 13- Fraser Union House Concert at Driftwood Cohousing

Friday March 13th **Fraser Union** will be in a house concert on the North Shore at *Driftwood Cohousing* (2137 Chesterfield Ave., North Vancouver, BC)

Doors 6:30 pm, music starts at 7:00 pm. By donation

Sun. March 15 VFSS Afternoon Song Circle

When: Sunday March 15, from 2–5 pm

Where: Click this [link](#) to **register and get address details** (Dunbar neighbourhood) for the event.

What: Standard song circle protocols, no theme

Why: We organize a few of these each year. It's a little more easy-going than the current Wednesday night open stage performing scene. It's only half a step up from singing at home in your own living room. If you want to introduce a friend to the VFSS, here's one way to do it.

Food: Bring a small finger food item.

Access: Several steps, both outside and inside, lead to the singing area

Public transportation: Number 7 bus, coming south on Dunbar and the R4 41st Ave RapidBus coming west on 41st. Both buses come to the Dunbar loop which is close to the host's home.

Thurs. Mar 19 Earle Peach and the Illiteratty are the feature at the Steveston Folk Guild. See more in [Goings-on Beyond Here](#).

Sat. March 21 World Water Day Concert: Fundraiser for Indigenous Water Protectors and RAVEN!

Vancouver Unitarians, 949 W 49th Ave, Vancouver, at the corner of 49th and Oak.

Doors open: 2:30pm and Concert: 3-5pm

Suggested donation: \$20 - \$50 or whatever you can afford - all funds raised go to Indigenous legal defence funds.

Featuring **The Alouette Sisters, Holly Arntzen, Left Coast Labour Choir** and more!

Sat. March 21 Open Door Music Concert: Michael Burnyeat and Kosta Bozhinov CD Release "Saltchuck"

Come and celebrate March the Green Month with us, with a night for Tunes and Songs to welcome in the Spring. Saturday, March 21, doors at 7PM, show at 7:30PM. Tickets are \$25, reservations only 604-222-2299, limited space- get your tickets early!

Featuring performances from VFSS regular **Michael Burnyeat** and **Kosta Bozhinov**, who are a fiddle-accordion duo who play lively Celtic, Folk, and World music; and VFSS members **The M&Ms** (**Michael Pratt, Lynn McGown** and **Michael Burnyeat**)

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

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/>

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

At the Firehall Arts Centre (280 E. Cordova St, Vancouver) 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.

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

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. VFSS members **Earle Peach and the Illiteratty** are the feature on **March 19th**. The band plays a wide range of musical styles, such as original swing, European cabaret, Celtic, rockabilly, and of course folk.

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).

Second Fridays of the Month– Northwest Seaport Sea Chantey sessions

Upcoming sessions are Mar 13, Apr 10, and May 8. 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 Thursday, March 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 CO₂monitor 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.