

Vancouver Folk Song Society

April 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 April 30** 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.)

Congratulations to the new Board of the VFSS!

At the AGM on March 25, we elected the board for 2026. Congratulations to everyone!

President: **Christina Ray**

Vice President: **Dylan Brown**

Treasurer: **Steve Deering**

Secretary: **Lynn Applegate**

Directors-at-Large: **Bevan Bartlett, Barb Coward, Janet Dempsey, Ian Edwards, Maureen Hannah, Jeremy Kashkett**

Past President: **Jim Edmondson**

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 7:10 pm, 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.

April Features

April 1	Open stage and feature - Alisa McFadyen
In person only	Ailsa McFadyen is a farmer recently returned to the city from Vancouver Island. She has strong roots in traditional song, with a repertoire which holds old stories of labour, love, and loss. Her days are filled with food production, singing, and writing.
April 15	Open Stage all night
Live and streaming	With no feature this week, there is extra time for the open stage. Come share a song or two!
April 29	5th Wednesday Special - Bringing Old Songs to Life: De-mystifying the Reclamation and Transference of Traditional Song
In person only	<p>Wednesday, Apr. 29 from 7-10 pm</p> <p>Registration through the VFSS website is required https://vfss.ca/2026/03/01/april-29-fifth-wednesday-special/</p> <p><u>Location:</u> East Vancouver (Details to be sent out by email upon registration)</p> <p>This Fifth Wednesday Special is for anyone looking to broaden or deepen their traditional song repertoire, and their relationship with our song traditions!</p> <p>It will feature a panel discussion with Rika Ruebsaat, Barry Truter, Ben Rogalsky, Christina Ray, and Dylan Brown (chaired by Bevan Bartlett). Questions under discussion will be: Where do we find songs? How do we pick songs? How and where do we sing which songs?</p> <p>The discussion will then be followed by an instructional on the use of online song resources led by Dylan Brown.</p> <p>Come dig into it with us!</p>

May Features

May 6	Open stage and feature TBA
Live only	
May 20	Open stage and feature TBA

Live and streaming

May 31

Song Circle - No theme

Sunday, May 31, 2-5PM

In person only

Outdoor song circle, with no theme and a slight preference for songs that others can join in on. The Song Circle format provides a more relaxed and casual daytime opportunity to sing together.

Location: Rick Pollay's garden, West Point Grey

To register and for more information, including address and song circle etiquette, visit <https://vfss.ca/2026/03/28/may-31-afternoon-song-circle/>

Places limited to 12 people, registration is required.

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.

- Check out upcoming events and folk resources at the new VFSS website: vfss.ca
- [Read](#) about our recent celebration in song for International Women's Day. Our open stage format for the evening heard from over 25 performers – solos, duos, and other entertaining collaborations.

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

Fri. Apr 3: Random Old Lady at Trees Coffee House

Friday, April 3, 8-10pm at Trees Coffee, 450 Granville St. Seating is limited, so arrive before 7:30 or so. Random Old Lady (Barb Shaw) will be one of 3 acts, sharing her songs and stories in an intimate space.

Fri. Apr 10: The Gram Partisans at 411 Coffee House

Friday, April 10, VFSS members the Gram Partisans will be the feature performers at the 411 Coffee house. See more in [Goings-on Beyond Here](#).

Fri. Apr 10: Fraser Union at Crossroads Coffee House

Fraser Union are the feature performers at the Crossroads Coffeehouse at The Gathering Place (1100 - 2253 Leigh Sq., Port Coquitlam)

Doors 7 pm, music starts at 7:30. All proceeds support the Crossroads Hospice Society. Suggested donation \$10.

Thurs. Apr 16 – Tim Readman at Steveston Folk Guild

Thursday, April 16, VFSS Member **Tim Readman** is the feature this month at the [Steveston Folk Guild](#). See more in [Goings-on Beyond Here](#).

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 7:30 pm. 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 member **Tim Readman** is the feature on April 16. A witty folksinger dealing in protest songs, funny songs, traditional and contemporary songs who always has a few surprises up his sleeve. **Tim** is a musician, folksinger, songwriter, producer and music journalist. He is the leader of Canadian Celtic/folk favourites “**Fear of Drinking**” and has played many times with “**The Arrogant Worms**,” Canada's crown princes of comedy.

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. The feature for Friday, April 10th are VFSS members, **The Gram Partisans**.

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 barbarajeanjackson@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: 7:00 pm, Opening acts: 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Break: 8:30 pm, Feature: 9:00 pm - 10:00 pm. \$20 cash only at the door (includes coffee & baked goodies).

Second Fridays of the Month– Northwest Seaport Sea Chantey sessions

Upcoming sessions are **Apr 10, May 8, and Jun 12**. 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, April 30**.

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.