

Vancouver Folk Song Society

May 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 May 28** 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 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.

May Features

May 6 Live only	Theme Night- Songs of BC Come sing the songs of BC: the workers, landscape, politics and experience of living in BC, including songs from the Phil Thomas collection. Bring 1-2 songs for the Open Stage.
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May 20 Live and streaming	Open Stage All Night With no feature this week, there is extra time for the open Stage. Come share a song or two!
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June Features

June 3 Live only	Open Stage All Night
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June 17 Live and streaming	Open stage and feature - Sarah Chester New VFSS member Sarah Chester sings carefully curated songs in French and English—we are in for a treat!
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Stat. June 13 5:30 to 11:30 PM	Special Event!! VFSS 67th Anniversary Friends / Quaker Hall 1090 west 70th Ave. Celebrate the continued flourishing of folk music in Vancouver, with potluck supper, anniversary cake, fabulous concert, and an informal sing to close out the night. Suggested donation: \$5-\$10 All welcome!
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To sign up for the concert: [VFSS.ca/Events](https://vfss.ca/Events)

Sign up early for the best chance of getting a spot. Signup will close on June 4.

What to Bring:

- Potluck items, ready to serve (no access to fridge or stove)
- Beverages, alcoholic or otherwise
- Your own dishes & utensils if you can
- Songs/instruments: for concert and for the informal sing afterwards

Shape of the evening:

5:30 pm Arrive, set up, socialize

6-7 pm Potluck supper

7-7:30 pm Clean up & transition

7:30-10 pm Concert

10-11 pm Informal Sing

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 on the VFSS website: vfss.ca
- Sign up for the concert at our June 13 VFSS Anniversary event: [Anniversary Concert](#)
- VFSS News: Check out the latest happenings: [Vfss.ca/news/](http://vfss.ca/news/)

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

Mon. May 4 - Re:Union Labour Songs and Literature

A historical evening combining songs and literature of the workplace, with **Fraser Union** and former members of the Vancouver Industrial Writers Union. Featured writers: Kate Braid, David Conn, Zoe Landale, Sandy Shreve, Kirsten Emmott, Tom Wayman, and Calvin Wharton.

Doors at 7:00 PM, show at 7:30PM. \$20 suggested donation. Mel Lehman Hall, St James Square, 3214 W 10th Ave, Vancouver.

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

May 10 - VIFF film and concert- Cassidy Waring & Hearse Chasing

Cassidy Waring is a queer Vancouver-based artist who transforms her struggles into raw, indie folk songs that resonate with uncompromising honesty, sharp wit, and vivid storytelling. Her new album, *If I Had Only Been Better*, delves deeper into her experience with complex trauma.

Cassidy is also the subject of the new mid-length documentary *Hearse Chasing*, by Teresa Alfeld. The film follows Cassidy as she returns to her childhood home in Calgary with her younger brother to excavate and understand their past.

This Mother’s Day, VIFF Live will screen Teresa’s film (43 mins) followed by a short Q&A and intermission, and then Cassidy and her band will perform.

Tickets are \$35. Screening at 7:30 at 1181 Seymour St, Vancouver.

For more information and to book tickets, visit <https://viff.org/whats-on/cassidy-waring-hearse-chasing-live/>

Thursdays -- Music & More Off Main

All sessions start at 7pm; music at 7:30pm. The first three Thursdays of the month 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.

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

The feature performers on May 15 are Juno Award winning composer, vocalist and jazz guitarist Mike Rud, with piano maeven Tilden Webb, with two opening sets from Molly Moolman and Manhattan Satin.

Second Fridays of the Month– Northwest Seaport Sea Chantey sessions

Upcoming sessions are May 8, June 12, Jul 10, and Aug 14. 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, May 28.**

Health and Safety Matters!

Our COVID precaution s

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.