

Vancouver Folk Song Society

June 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 June 25** 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.)

Special Announcement on the 2026 VFSS Retreat!

The 2026 Vancouver Folk Song Society Retreat will be held **September 25th-27th** at Camp Alexandra, Crescent Beach, B.C. Please mark your calendars.

Information on registration and sessions will be available in early July.

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.

June Features

May 31	Sunday Afternoon Song Circle
Live only	At Rick Pollay's home on Vancouver's west side. The sign-up limit for this event has been reached and registration is now closed.
June 3	VFSS Wednesday Night Folk at the Quaker Hall
Live only	Open Stage All Night With no feature this week, there is extra time for the open Stage. Come share a song or two!
Sat. June 13	Special Event: VFSS 67th Anniversary!
5:30 to 11:30 PM	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.
<u>Shape of the evening:</u>	All welcome!
5:30 – set up and socialize	Suggested donation: \$5-\$10 To sign up for the concert: VFSS.ca/Events
6-7 – Potluck supper	Sign up early! Signup closes on June 4.
7-7:30 – Clean up and transition	What to Bring: • Potluck items, ready to serve (no access to fridge or stove) • Non-alcoholic beverages only

7:30-10 – Concert with break and cake	• Your own dishes & utensils if you can • Songs/instruments: for concert and for the informal sing afterwards
10:15-11:15 – informal sing	We hope to see you there!

June 17	VFSS Wednesday Night Folk at the Quaker Hall
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!

July Features

July 1	VFSS Wednesday Night Folk at the Quaker Hall
Live only	Open Stage All Night – Theme: Songs of Canada
July 15	VFSS Wednesday Night Folk at the Quaker Hall
Live and streaming	Open stage and feature - TBA
Wed. July 29	5th Wednesday Special- All About Shanties
7:30 to 10 PM	Educational, engaging, fun! Come learn what all the fun is about. More details to come.

August Features

August 5	VFSS Wednesday Night Folk at the Quaker Hall
Live only	Open Stage and Feature – Mary Armitage and the Retreaters
August 19	VFSS Wednesday Night Folk at the Quaker Hall
Live and streaming	Open Stage all night
Sun August 30	VFSS Afternoon Song Circle
2-5 PM	At Ruth and Tim's, Cranberry Commons in North Burnaby. Registration information to come.

Our Website Corner

- Sign up for the concert at our June 13 VFSS Anniversary event: [Anniversary Concert](#)
- VFSS News: Check out our latest posts in our “News” section: [Vfss.ca/news/](https://vfss.ca/news/)
- The VFSS Gallery is an ever-growing photo album of VFSS folks: do we have a picture of YOU? [VFSS Gallery](#)
- Read about a recent “VFSS in the Community” event: [Singing Ballads at SFU](#)
- Check out all our upcoming events and folk resources on the VFSS website: vfss.ca

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

Sun. June 14 – Left Coast Labour Chorus and Friends- Benefit for Migrant Workers Centre

Left Coast Labour Chorus presents WE WELCOME YOU ALL!, a fundraiser for Migrant Workers Centre, featuring Left Coast (which includes VFSS members Jim Edmondson, the Re:Sisters, Susan Stout), Folk powerhouse singer-songwriter Gillian Hobbs, as well as activist folk band Gram Partisans.

Imagine being sick, pregnant or injured on the job and avoiding a trip to the hospital out of fear of having your immigration status questioned. For hundreds of migrant workers and refugees in BC, this is sadly a common experience. Luckily Sanctuary Health and the Migrant Workers Centre, a beautiful network of advocates and community members have emerged and evolved to help people access services without fear. Come hear about this important work and enjoy music in solidarity.

Show from 2-4 PM at 411 SENIORS CENTRE (3502 Fraser St)

Refreshments, raffle baskets and Earnest Ice Cream! Online tickets only: adults \$25, kids \$10, under 5 free.

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/leftcoastlabourchorus/2197298>

Sat. June 20 - Ceilidh/Twmpath/Barn Dance with the Vancouver Welsh Society

Saturday June 20, 2026, 7:30 - 10:30pm at the Cambrian Hall (215 East 17th Avenue, Vancouver)

Band: The RATTLEBONE BAND (<http://rattlebone.weebly.com/>)

Cost: FREE!! (Sponsored by the Vancouver Welsh Society – voluntary donations gratefully accepted)

Further Information: Email mail@welshsociety.com

Sun. June 28 – MacLean Park Music – Norine Braun, Sight Curve, Amorphous Folk Collective

Free live music in MacLean Park (710 Keefer St) from 2-5PM. More information at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1684486409429969>

2:00 PM: **Norine Braun** - an award-winning Métis and Two Spirit singer-songwriter from East Vancouver, known for her soulful vocals, introspective lyrics, and genre-blending mix of roots rock, blues, and folk.

3:00 PM: **Sight Curve** - A collaboration written in the stars, Sight Curve is a cross-genre indie project featuring Vancouver based band Blue Dirt Girl's Kathryn Sutherland's strong and nuanced vocals/lyrics and Albert Klassen's stand up and electric bass stylings with the eclectic beats of Josh Klassen.

4:00 PM: **Amorphous Folk Collective** - The Amorphous Folk Collective is a collective of music, dance, and theatre artists who first got together in early 2020 to sing and make music together. We primarily sing folk music from places where we have ancestry and connection, including Canada, Ireland, Scotland, England, France and Sweden.

Sat. July 11 – Gram Partisans and Solidarity Notes Labour Choir opening for David Rovics

David Rovics is a songwriter, musician, writer and podcaster based in Portland, Oregon. He is one of the most censored artists alive today, having had his entire discography on YouTube Music taken down, his YouTube Channel deleted (and then restored, for now), and his presence on Facebook systematically suppressed, with crucial features permanently disabled. Pete Seeger urged: "Listen to David Rovics"

David will be performing as a duo with **Kamala Emanuel**, from Brisbane, Australia. Together they call themselves the Ministry of Culture. More:

<https://www.davidrovics.com>

Opening for David will be Vancouver's [Solidarity Notes Labour Choir](#) and [The Gram Partisans](#)

Profits from this event will be donated to the [Gaza Soup Kitchen](#)

Thanks to Notional Space's Mark and Yoo-Mi for donation of space and time

Show from 3-5 PM at Notional Space (1523 E Pender St). Tickets \$25 online
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/david-rovics-in-vancouver-2026-tickets-1985462832780>

Wed. July 22 – Potluck Dinner and House Concert at Cranberry Commons

Please join us for a potluck dinner and House Concert at Cranberry Commons, featuring singer-songwriter **Marten Borch**. Marten is known for his raw authenticity, heartfelt lyrics and a deep commitment to using music as a tool for connection and change.

Check him out here: <https://martenborchmusic.com/>

Doors at 5:30, potluck at 6:00, Concert 7:30-9PM. Cranberry Commons Cohousing (4272 Albert St. Burnaby). \$20 or pay what you can.

Everyone welcome! Please RSVP to ruth@cranberrycommons.ca

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. 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).

Second Fridays of the Month-- Northwest Seaport Sea Chantey sessions

Upcoming sessions are 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, June 25.**

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.