

Vancouver Folk Song Society

July 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 July 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.)

Remembering Henk Piket, 1944-2026

by Christina Ray for the VFSS

Henk was an affectionate friend, a very fine singer, guitar player, and photographer, a dedicated gardener and organizer, and a Life Member of the Vancouver Folk Song Society. Born in the Netherlands, Henk Piket came to Canada with his family in 1954 and joined “the Folk” shortly thereafter. His energy, warmth, and musicianship built up the VFSS over many decades. We will miss him tenderly, and we will carry on his legacy of friendship and music.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to Henk’s wife Cheryl, his daughters Krista, Nicole, and Carmel, and his stepdaughters Signe and Denise, along with all the other members of his family and music family.

[Here](#) is Henk’s obituary, written by his daughter Krista.

[Click here](#) for warm memories of Henk from Roger Holdstock, and from Jon Bartlett and Rika Ruebsaat.

Gather with folk friends and family to remember Henk:

Celebration of Life for Henk Piket
Saturday, Sept. 5, from 2-5 pm at the Quaker Hall
More details to follow.

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.

Registration will commence in early July, both on-line and via hardcopies at the Quaker Meeting House.

To be kept up to date, sign up for the Retreat Mailing List [on our website](#).

The VFSS Retreat Committee

Mary Armitage, Lynn Applegate, Steve Deering, and Maureen Hannah

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.

July Features

July 1 **VFSS Wednesday Night Folk at the Quaker Hall**

Live only **Theme: Songs of Canada - Open Stage All Night**

With no feature this week, there is extra time for the open Stage.
Come share a song or two!

July 15 **VFSS Wednesday Night Folk at the Quaker Hall**

Live and streaming **Open Stage and Feature: Shadowfax**

This alt-folk band from North Vancouver has a style that incorporates influences from folk ballads, bluegrass, shoegaze and jazz. Their music draws from myths and folk tales - from Orpheus and Eurydice to Rip Van Winkle and will o' the wisps - and employs lush arrangements including pedal steel, horns, and the occasional theremin, with lyrics favouring fantastical narratives that tackle themes of environmentalism, the complex feelings of grieving imperfect loved ones, and personal accountability for failed relationships. Hear them on [Bandcamp](#).

Wed. July 29 **5th Wednesday Special**

7- 10 PM **Lingo and Labour of the Sea: Form and Function in your Favourite Shanties**

Where: Trinity-Grace United Church, 803 E. 16th Avenue

When: July 29th, 7-10pm.

No registration required. Venue is wheelchair accessible.

By donation.

This 5th Wednesday will be led by Seattle's own Shantyman, sailor, and folk song instigator/organizer extraordinaire: David Kessler.

David's presentation will include some hands-on demonstrations (with rope!), and of course, be followed by a bunch of shanty singing!

August Features

August 5 **VFSS Wednesday Night Folk at the Quaker Hall**

Live only **Open Stage and Feature – Mary Armitage and the Re-Treaters**

August 19 **VFSS Wednesday Night Folk at the Quaker Hall**

Open Stage all night

Live and streaming

Sun August 30 VFSS Afternoon Song Circle

2-5 PM At Ruth and Tim's, Cranberry Commons in North Burnaby. Venue is wheelchair accessible.

To find full event details, see [Sunday Afternoon Song Circle](#)

Registration will open in mid-July.

September Features

Sept 2 VFSS Wednesday Night Folk at the Quaker Hall

Live only Theme: Songs of Work and Working People - Open Stage all night

Sat. Sept 5 Henk Piket's Celebration of Life

From 2-5 PM at the Quaker Hall.

Details to come here and on the website, vfss.ca

Sept 16 VFSS Wednesday Night Folk at the Quaker Hall

Live and streaming Open Stage and Feature – Jenny Arntzen

Jenny Arntzen, singer/songwriter, original traditional folk.

Our Website Corner

VFSS News: Check out our latest posts in our “News” section: vfss.ca/news

- [Remembering Henk Piket](#)
- 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

Fri. July 3 – Gerry Parsons features at Trees Coffee Music Nights

8:00-10 PM, at Trees Coffee downtown (450 Granville St, Vancouver).

Free live music from VFSS member Gerry Parsons, followed by Alana Louise and Jeremy Facknitz. For more information visit <https://treescoffee.com/live-music-nights/>

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. 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>

Sun. July 12 – MacLean Park Music

VFSS regulars **Random Old Lady** (Barb Shaw), and Michael Burnyeat with **Teapot Tempest**, featured at MacLean Music in the Park. More details below in "VFSS Out and About".

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

Second and Fourth Sundays -- MacLean Park Music

Free music in the park 2:00 – 5:00 PM at MacLean Park (710 Keefer St)

July 12 features **Random Old Lady** (Barb Shaw), **Teapot Tempest** (including VFSS favourite fiddler Michael Burnyeat), and **Deep Cove Big Band**. For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/971609089162976/>

July 26 features **Mizz Lisa**, **Lyndsay Wills & No Frills**, **Sinéad X Sanders**. For more visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/2349344975548687>

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 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 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, July 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.