

Vancouver Folk Song Society

September 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 October 1** 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 – VFSS Retreat early bird registration date extended to September 5

The date for Early Bird Registration for the upcoming retreat has been extended to September 5th, thereby giving our members more time to take advantage of this lower rate. We look forward to seeing you at the retreat.

Vfss.ca Website Down in Late August

We apologize for the inconvenience over the last two weeks as our site has been down. It is back up now, but still has a few glitchy areas. Vfss.ca will be fully functional again soon!

In Memoriam – Ken Orchard

We were saddened to hear that Ken Orchard, a vital figure in the Victoria folk music scene, passed away on August 17.

Ken's [obituary from the Times Colonist](#) notes that he was a sound tech for the Vancouver Folk Festival in 1975, and later hosted a folk music show on the UVic community radio station. He sang and played washtub bass in The [Rabbleberries](#), along with Sharon Hazelwood, Karen Gillmore, and Alan O'Dean. Ken was very active in the Victoria Folk Music Society, and hosted house concerts at his place on Montrose Avenue.

Ken was committed to social justice. As a skilled electrician, Ken was a union activist for his entire working life. After the overthrow of white minority rule in Zimbabwe, when many white skilled trades workers fled the country, Ken went there and

helped train the first generation of black Zimbabwean electricians. It was on his return to Canada that he moved to Victoria and taught at the Native Friendship Centre and then at Vic High.

Ken's partner, Carole Costello, is planning a celebration of his life sometime in October, details TBA. Contact VFSS member Andy Rose for more information.

If anyone feels moved to make a donation in memory of Ken, Carole's request is that donations go to Parkinson Canada or to The Tyee.

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 sometimes 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.

September Events

Sept 2 VFSS Wednesday Night Folk at the Quaker Hall

Live only Theme: Songs of Work and Working People

Open Stage all night

The folk tradition is brimming with great songs about work—fiery, thoughtful, poignant—songs that reflect the human experience and give us inspiration.

To celebrate Labour Day, join in with picket line chants, lullabies, field hollers and shanties, the songs of mining, building, caregiving, gig and data work, labour organizing, and building a fairer economy.

Sat. Sept 5 Celebration of Life for Henk Piket, 1944-2026, VFSS Life Member

2-5 PM at the Quaker Hall ([1090 West 70th Ave](#))

2:00 Meet and greet

Food available (sweet and savoury) and non-alcoholic drinks

There will be a looped slide show of Henk to view

2:30 Formal part of the event - invited singers and speakers

Songs and stories

4:00 Open invitation to singers and speakers to say a few words and/or sing a song

5:00 Final song

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. Don't miss the Arntzen wave!

Fri. Sept 25 VFSS Retreat

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**Sun. Sept
27**

Gather with other folk singers at the annual VFSS Retreat at Camp Alexandria in Crescent Beach.

We have organized sessions led by experienced leaders on a variety of themes/subjects. Sessions include song circles, sing-alongs, workshops, and presentations.

Early bird registration ends September 5.

**Wed. Sept
30 5th Wednesday Special**

Settler Songs on Stolen Land: Canadian Folk Song & Truth and Reconciliation

Where: TBA

When: September 30th, 7-10pm

Registration details TBA.

Hosted by Bevan and Christina

This 5th Wednesday falls on our National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and thus is a golden opportunity to ask, as a community: what does it mean to sing settler songs on stolen land? How might we bring our relationship with folk song into closer alignment with our commitment, as Canadians, towards truth and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples? What absences, erasures, colonial attitudes, hostilities - but also tribute, presence, and even healing - do we find in our collective song record and singing repertoire? What Indigenous voices and experiences might emerge, where we to look and listen?

This event will be for VFSS members and friends, so that we can probe our collective repertoire together. We ask that attendees bring a song, or an experience, or simply a question – something to contribute to the discussion.

Check the website (vfss.ca) for more details and a short reflection from Christina Ray.

October Events

Wed. Oct 7 7:20 – 10 pm Live only	VFSS Wednesday Night Folk at the Quaker Hall Theme: Open Open Stage all night
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Wed. Oct 21 7:20-10 pm Live and streaming	VFSS Wednesday Night Folk at the Quaker Hall Theme: Open Open Stage and Feature – Lovejoy Sisters Heidi and Tiffany grew up with music woven into the rhythm of everyday life — singing alongside their sister, mum, and dad (their lifelong musical “north star”). Though song was always a part of the Baldwin family, it’s only recently that Tiffany and Heidi discovered the beauty of blending their voices and creating harmonies together. With their dad accompanying them on guitar, they are excited to share a feature set at the VFSS.
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Our Website Corner

VFSS News: New posts coming soon in our “News” section, as we get the website back online: vfss.ca/news

- Register for the VFSS Retreat: a fabulous weekend of sharing our folk culture and community!
- Henk Piket: Celebration of Life
- Singing Settler Songs on Stolen Land: A Reflection by Christina Ray
- 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

September 5 -7 – TAIWANfest

Join VFSS friends at TAIWANfest in Downtown Vancouver, for three full days of free and stirring festival programming celebrating cultural connections between Canada, Taiwan, and Scotland.

See VFSS friends Professor Leith Davis (lecture + music on Jacobites), Jessica and Corrina Keeling (Gaelic Work and Story Songs), Prairie Wolf with Tim Readman (Chinese Canadian Scottish Fiddle Journey), and dance at the Scottish Country Dance.

[Visit the festival website](#) for more information on venues and programming.

Mon. September 7 - Beaconsfield Concert Featuring Banned on the Beach

Beaconsfield Community Garden (behind the Italian Cultural Centre)

3 PM

This is the second in a series of three concerts in Beaconsfield Park, supported by a small Neighbourhood Grant. Banned on the Beach describe themselves as follows: "Brian, Jenny, Paul, and Moira are an impromptu band that loves getting

together to perform and jam at a variety of venues. We play a fun mix of folk, traditional, old favourites, and newer tunes, and we love getting the audience singing and joining in. Every performance is relaxed, interactive, and a great time for everyone."

Please consider bringing your own chair for this event!

Sun. September 13 – Tim Readman/Prairie Wolf at MacLean Park Music

Free outdoor concerts in MacLean Park, 2-5 PM.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1657409083057440>

Sun. September 20 – Tim Readman House Concert in Burnaby, BC

3:00 - 5:30 PM, Doors at 2:45

Tim will be performing two sets at this house concert at a private residence in Burnaby BC two blocks from the Edmonds Skytrain Station - 7106 18th Ave.

Link for more information <https://timreadman.com/events/house-concert-burnaby-bc/>

Tickets are \$20. Reserve a ticket and pay by e-transfer to Luci at Lbaja4457 [at] gmail.com. Some tickets available at the door.

Please bring a non-messy appetizer to share if you are able.

Hosts Luci and Dave Myles will start the show off with three tunes.

Sun. September 27 – Gram Partisans at MacLean Park Music

Free outdoor concerts in MacLean Park, 2-5 PM.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1612460356723402>

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 until Sept 27 -- MacLean Park Music

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

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 Sept 18, and Oct 9. 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, October 1.**

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.