

Vancouver Folk Song Society

October 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 29** 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 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.

October Events

Wed. Oct 7 **VFSS Wednesday Night Folk at the Quaker Hall**
7:20 – 10 pm
Live only
Theme: Open
Open Stage all night

Wed. Oct 21 **VFSS Wednesday Night Folk at the Quaker Hall**
7:20-10 pm
Live and streaming
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. They are grateful to The Folk Song Society for providing the safe and welcoming space where their sound — once described by fellow folk singer Dylan Brown as “mellifluous” — is finding its voice. Their name is inspired by the spirited character from an Episode of Sparrows by Rumer Godden, and speaks to the deep love they have for each other and the true joy they find in making music together.

November Events

Wed. Nov 4 **VFSS Wednesday Night Folk at the Quaker Hall**
7:20-10 PM
Theme: Singing the Traditions 1
Live only
Open Stage: Trad songs and trad singing all night long!

Wed. Nov 18 **VFSS Wednesday Night Folk at the Quaker Hall**
7:20-10 PM
Theme: Singing the Traditions 2
Live and streaming
Open Stage: Trad songs and trad singing all night long!

Sun. Nov 22 **Caregivers Online Song Circle**
2:00 PM

Vancouver Folk Song Society is inviting family caregivers to join us for a Sunday afternoon online song circle. This is a chance to be part of a musical event, to share a song that is meaningful to you or enjoyed by your family, without having to leave the comfort of home.

When we sing together, we feel a sense of belonging, of being seen, of being part of something bigger than ourselves. We make new friendships.

When caregivers sing together, they broaden perspectives about the lived experience of the work of caregiving, they also deepen understanding of the impact caregiving has on the lives of caregivers and their families.

We feel connected to something bigger than ourselves, that we are not alone, even though many of our hours are spent each day in isolation.

Register to receive the Zoom link at

https://simpli.events/e/VFSS_CaregiverZoomSongCircle_Nov22_2pm

Our Website Corner

VFSS News: 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

Thurs. October 8 – Gram Partisans feature at Music and More Off Main

7:00 PM, Little Mountain Neighbourhood House 157 E 36th (2nd floor). By donation.

Fri. October 23 – Barb Shaw (Random Old Lady) feature at Trees Coffeehouse

7:30 to 9:30 PM, Trees Coffee House, 450 Granville St, Vancouver

Free entry, donations accepted.

Sat. October 24 – Rise Caregivers Collective

Notional Space, 1523 E Pender St, Vancouver Doors at 1:30, Music from 2:00 PM

Rise Caregivers Collective is inspired by the shared experience, passion, and unparalleled musicianship of the **Re:Sisters (Barb Coward, De Whalen, Janet Dempsey, Janet Hall), the Arntzen Sisters (Holly Arntzen, Jenny Arntzen) and Gillian Hobbs**. They will present a program of traditional and original folk music, enriched with personal stories from their family experiences of caregiving. Special guest, **Jane Slemon**, will bring depth and extraordinary artistic insight to the uncelebrated labour of caregiving.

For more information and to register, visit <https://notional.space/z-event-pages/rise-caregivers-collective/>

This is a gift economy, or pay-what-you-wish, event.

Fri. and Sat. November 13 and 14 – Table Songs Festival

6:00 PM – Midnight.

Vancouver Hungarian Hall, 728 Kingsway, Vancouver

The Table Songs Festival is inspired by **Supra**, the Georgian tradition of gathering around a feast table to share folk song, music, and sometimes dance. It brings together Hungarian folk traditions, English/Canadian pub songs, and Georgian polyphony. Guests will enjoy a Hungarian three-course feast, carefully curated wines, and hand-crafted non-alcoholic drinks.

This event features three groups from cultures that have a tradition of singing around a table while enjoying food and drink, including a Georgian polyphonic vocal ensemble, traditional Hungarian dancers and singers, **and VFSS members Princeton Porch Party**, a Pacific Northwest group known for English sea shanties and pub songs. Performers seated among the audience will take turns in leading songs, acapella or with musical accompaniment, inviting everyone to listen, sing along, and take part in the experience.

There are two ticket prices, with feast and without (after 9-pm entry). For the latter, VFSS members are invited to enter the discount code "iliketosin" for a nominal discount.

Tickets are \$25-95 at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/table-songs-2026-tickets-1992463013509?aff=oddtcreator>

Sat. November 14 – Tim Readman at Music on Manning House Concert

8:00 - 10:00 PM 3355 Manning Crescent, North Vancouver

Tim is a VFSS member and a witty folksinger and songwriter, dealing in protest songs, funny songs, traditional and contemporary songs who always has a few surprises up his sleeve.

Link: <https://timreadman.com/events/music-on-manning-house-concert/>

For details and reservations contact the host, Neil R. Creighton at [604.786.1147](tel:604.786.1147) or NeilRCreighton@gmail.com

Fri. November 27 – Random Old Lady Album Release Party

7:30-9:30 PM, Trees Coffee House, 450 Granville St, Vancouver

Free entry, donations accepted.

Celebrating the release of Barb Shaw's new album, *Tears of the Grandmothers*, the album release party will be an entire show of listening and performance, participation and community. This album spans 4 decades representing converging issues of Indigenous Solidarity and unfortunately destruction of native lands which are still relevant today.

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 (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 Oct 9, Nov 13, Dec 11, and Jan 8. 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 29.**

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.