Vancouver Folk Song Society

November 2026

www.vfss.ca

Friends (Quaker) Hall, 1090 west 70th at Osler St.

Got news? Performing somewhere? Complete the form on our website **BY THE END OF DAY THURSDAY November 26** or email us at vanfolksong@gmail.com 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.

November Events

Wed. Nov 4
7:20-10 PM

Live only

VFSS Wednesday Night Folk at the Quaker Hall

Theme: Singing the Traditions 1

Open Stage: Trad songs and trad singing all night long! Bring 1 or 2 songs to share.

Wed. Nov 18
7:20-10 PM

Live and streaming

VFSS Wednesday Night Folk at the Quaker Hall

Theme: Singing the Traditions 2

Open Stage: Trad songs and trad singing all night long! Bring 1 or 2 songs to share.

Sun. Nov 22
2:00 PM

Caregivers Online Song Circle

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 sha a song that is meaningful to you or enjoyed by your family, without having to leav the comfort of home.

When we sing together, we feel a sense of belonging, of being seen, of being par 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 imp caregiving has on the lives of caregivers and their families.

We feel connected to something bigger than ourselves, that we are not alone, ev 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

December Events

Wed. Dec 2
7:20-10 PM

Live only

VFSS Wednesday Night Folk at the Quaker Hall

Open Stage and Feature - Bevan Bartlett and friends as The Mystery Maritime Crew

A newly-formed, yet-unnamed conglomeration of next-gen folk singers, focused on sea shanties, forebitters and big group harmony. This will be their first outing as a group.

Sun. Dec 6 **2:00PM**	**VFSS Sunday Afternoon Song Circle** This is a winter song circle. We will use standard song circle procedures and protocols which will be explained. Near Victoria and Venables, exact address shared after registration. Limited capacity. To register, email Jenny Arntzen at jennyarntzen.music@gmail.com, with "December Song Circle" in the subject line. Coffee and tea provided. Please bring potluck snacks. Accessibility: 8 steps up to the house's main floor. Bathroom on the main floor. Seating provided.
Wed. Dec 16 7:20-10 PM Live and streamed	**VFSS Annual Winter Concert** This is the VFSS's annual winter concert, involving: a decorated hall; a ginger-bread outhouse; a non-alcoholic mulled apple cider; general fun and jollity. You must register to perform, one song only. It's better if you buddy up with one or more performers and make a group so more people can perform. Register on our website.

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 Community Support

VFSS Board member **Jeremy Kashkett** and his wife Jules are expecting their first baby on November 12. Heidi Harmer is organizing a meal train to help make those early weeks a little easier. If you'd like to contribute a meal, you'll find delivery dates, food preferences, and sign-up details here. You can also send a gift card through the site.

There's no pressure to participate—just a lovely opportunity for our folk music community to surround this growing family with care. Every meal and thoughtful gesture will help them feel supported as they settle into life with their new baby.

Please contact Heidi Harmer at heidi_harmer@hotmail.com or 604-716-3955 with any questions. Thank you!

VFSS Folk Out and About

Sat. November 7 – House Concert with Brian Robertson

Doors at 7:00 PM, music at 7:30. 2160 W 48th Ave, Vancouver

Featuring two of Canada's top young fiddlers, local sensations **Jocelyn Pettit** and **Michael Burnyeat**, along with VFSS member and singer-songwriter-guitarist **Brian Robertson**. Intermission will feature snacks and hot and cold beverages. BYOB if that's what you desire.

Tickets at $25. To reserve, contact Brian at brianrobertsonvan@gmail.com and confirm through Interac Payment.

Wed. November 11 – White Poppy Event- Let Peace Be Their Memorial

1:15 – 3:30 PM, Vancouver Unitarians Sanctuary, 49th and Oak

Gather in the Vancouver Unitarian sanctuary for group singing from a peace-oriented song sheet put together by **Jim Edmondson**. Groups involved: **VFSS, Left Coast Labour Chorus, Solidarity Notes**. The songs will either be well-known or easy to learn on the spot. Song sheets provided.

Group singing followed by wreath laying for civilian victims of war interspersed with speeches/poems and songs by 6 separate performers, and a final song - Song of Peace Finlandia.

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 "iliketosing" for a nominal discount.
Tickets are $25-95 at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/table-songs-2026-tickets-1992463013509?aff=oddtdtcreator

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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 Creighton at 604.786.1147 or NeilRCreighton@gmail.com

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Fri. November 27 – Random Old Lady Album Release Party

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

Fri. December 11 – Lovejoy at Folk Music at the Beach

Door at 7:15 PM, Music at 7:30. Hollyburn Sailing Club, 1326 Argyle Avenue, on Ambleside Beach in West Vancouver. Pay parking is in effect at Ambleside Park- please check the signs where you park!

Join **Lovejoy**—sisters **Heidi Harmer** and **Tiffany Kuhlmann**, accompanied by their dad, **Graham Baldwin**—for an evening of folk music at the beachside Hollyburn Sailing Club! Lovejoy pairs close harmonies with a mix of folk, roots, and bluegrass songs.

The Accelerators—VFSS members **Lynn McGown** and **Michael Pratt**, joined by their friends Marilyn and Dave—will warm things up before Lovejoy takes the stage at 8 p.m. for a set of approximately 35 minutes. Lyndsay Wills and the "No Frills" band will keep the music flowing in the second half.

Come for Lovejoy and stay for a full evening of music and good company!

Tickets are $10. For more information, visit the Folk Music on the Beach website.

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 *Note New Location*

Nov. 5 Feature: Chris Ronald All sessions start at 7pm; music at 7:30pm. The first three Thursdays of the month are LIVE again (at 157 E. 36th, Vancouver, 2nd floor); 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 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, November 26.**

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 CO_2monitor 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.