

From: Vancouver Folk Song Society vanfolksong@gmail.com
Subject: February with the Folk at VFSS
Date: February 4, 2024 at 10:42 PM
To: undisclosed-recipients;



Vancouver Folk Song Society February 2024

www.vfss.ca

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

Got news? Performing somewhere?

Contact us with comments or news at vanfolksong@gmail.com by **Saturday, Mar. 2** to be included in the next newsletter.

This email newsletter is sent to VFSS members and to subscribers by request.

To unsubscribe, go to vfss.ca/email-lists.

***Coughs? Sniffles? A bit of a fever? COVID, flu or "just" a cold?** None of those is any fun, and for some, it can be very serious! If you have symptoms, please join us safely over Zoom. We care about your good health and ours, too. Share songs, not bugs.*

Schedule & Upcoming Events

- **7:00 pm** Doors open
- **7:20 Harmony Jam** invites everyone to warm up their voices together as they start the evening with well-loved sing-along songs.
- **7:30 - 8:30** open stage / song circle
- **8:30 - 8:45** break (bring your own snacks/beverages)
- **8:45 - 9:45** feature performers
- **10:00 pm** Doors close

5th Wednesdays Song circles on Zoom with breakout rooms if there are enough participants.

The Zoom link will be sent to our mailing list the day before, as usual.

Feb. 7

Open stage & features

In-person only

- **Jim and Nick Edmondson** are brothers who have been singing together since they were youngsters. Is there anything sweeter than sibling harmony?
- **Re:Sisters (Barb Coward, De Whalen, Janet Dempsey, and Janet Hall)** bring more harmonies to our evening as they continue to develop a repertoire that showcases their voices and their hearts, beating with sisterhood and solidarity for social justice.
- **Colleen Griffin, Cam Salay, and Shirley Wiebe**

are three long-time friends who have been jamming together for over a decade. Singing, playing, and teaching make up some of their musical experiences, as well as songwriting. Their set will focus on original songs about family and place.

- **Jazzophilia** is a collaboration between four jazz students from the *VSO School of Music* and explores the richness of the “classical” music of Black America, aka Jazz. Our hall will resonate with the lively combination of Zarina Mulla on saxophone, Jeff Sarsfield on bass, James Hall on drums, and Robin Bajer on guitar.

Feb. 21

Online song circle

Livestream for features in the second half

Zoom link will be sent the day before the event

- **Teresa Gagné** and her partner Denis first joined the VFSS in the late 70s, but she didn’t screw up the nerve to sing for several years. After serving as president, she helped to found Folk Traditions Sing-Around with other longtime VFSS members. She mainly sings a cappella, with a focus on songs by women, BC songs from Phil Thomas’s collection, and traditional songs in French, English and (occasionally) other languages.

- **Graham Baldwin** has played melodeon for over 30 years and guitar since he was a child!! He has played in many bands over the years and maintains an eclectic repertoire of traditional and contemporary folk, and what he calls (with affection!) “cheap, pop crap.” He is a founding member of the Vancouver Morris Men and the Rattlebone Band, a local folk/ceilidh/ECD band.

- **Rick Gordon** is another long-time VFSS member. He likes “sturdy” songs, especially about work, with the occasional blues thrown in. He accompanies his thoughtful and sensitive singing with his dobro and Weissenborn guitar.

- **Natalie Davidson** is a theatre performer and vocalist who is also part of The Amorphous Folk Collective. She loves ballads, laments, and is particularly partial to songs that explore the ethereal and otherworldly. Though it’s very slow-going, she is also passionate about developing her ability to sing in Scottish Gaelic and other Celtic languages.

Mar. 6

Upcoming features will be **Vaughan Evans, Mary Armitage, Seamus Leahy and Jared Brown** (more parts of the Amorphous Folk Collective!) and **Ruth Walmsley and Tim Bartoo**.

Mar. 20

Songs of Place, Songs of BC: Prepare for an evening in memory of BC’s own folksong collector, Phil Thomas. With **Brian Robertson, Linda Chobotuck, David Querido** and others.

For the **Open Stage**, bring a song from BC, or from your own place.

How to be a Feature: Sign up for your “15 minutes of fame” in the calendar at the front desk at the Folk on Wednesday or [email](#) the coordinator.

Accessible Folk!

The Friends Hall has upgraded its facilities to include elevator access for those using wheelchairs or other mobility aids. The entrance is from Osler St.

Our COVID precautions

We can't eliminate all risk of exposure, but we try to limit it by caring for one another through our safety measures.

Ventilation During cooler weather, we're *reducing* the use of open doors and windows for ventilation and adding *additional* HEPA air purifiers instead. The CO₂ monitor remains. So, it won't be warm, but it won't be as cold. This change makes following mask and self-monitoring guidelines even more important.

- **Masks.** We *welcome* you wearing a mask when you're not leading a song or reciting a poem, especially if you have health risks. Please respect each other's choice and continue to stay home if you're not feeling healthy.
- **Self-monitoring** If you are experiencing *any* [Covid symptoms](#), please stay home and get well soon!

VFSS news

Madeleine DeLittle (1953-2024)

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Madeleine Mary DeLittle on January 16. She was, among many other things, wife (married to Jim Edmondson), mother, stepmother, singer, teacher, counsellor, gardener, and traveller.

Madeleine regularly performed at festivals and other events with Jim, including Fort Langley Days (in costume!) and sang an unshakeable and resolute melody that Jim's harmonies failed to dislodge. She was also one of the POOFs -- Parents of 'Old Fogies,' Old Fogies being the self-chosen name of the VFSS children's choir a few decades ago. Her strong voice will ring unforgotten.

A longer memorial and small photo collection is posted on the [VFSS website](#) where you may share your thoughts and memories of Madeleine.

VFSS folks

Thurs. Feb. 8 Burnaby Mountain Mamas – Pat Howard, Janie Benna, and Rena Pinteric are the feature at Music and More on Main.

How to stay in touch

- With [Facebook](#) and [Youtube](#), you can view the news and photos we share there.
- Our [website](#) has details and reminders of upcoming VFSS events, as well as news, photos, notes about what to expect at our events, and technical tips for Zoom events.
- Contact us with news of an upcoming performance for the next newsletter at vanfolksona@amail.com.

OTHER EVENTS

Music & More on Main – Note location of live events

Zoom on 1st and 3rd Thurs. Live on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month and last Sunday afternoon of each month. **Feature: Feb. 8 Burnaby Mountain Mamas (Pat Howard, Janie Benna, and Rena Pinteric).** Little Mountain Neighbourhood House had a fire last summer so the live events are held at **City Heights Housing Society, 155 E. 37th Ave.** If there is no one waiting in the lobby to let you in, go past the bike racks into the garden on the north and tap on the glass of the meeting room. Contact Tim Mar at timmarsongs@gmail.com if you want to perform or attend. To get on the mailing list, email Stoo Born at emin7b5@shaw.ca

-

Folk Music on the Beach – 2nd Fridays

Fri. Feb. 9 at the Hollyburn Sailing Club, **Feature: [Headlong Hearts](#)**, a five-piece band presenting original songs accompanied on guitars, violin, banjo, mandolin, bass, and drums. And the house band, The Hollyburners, feature VFSS musicians **Steve Deering** and **Ken Hamer**. 1326 Argyle Ave., West Vancouver. \$10 at the door, BYOB. House band from 7:30-8 pm, featured performers from 8 pm – 10 pm. Reserve with Neil at carroll_neil@hotmail.com. It helps with their planning!
www.folkmusicatthebeach.com

Musical Friends on Fraser (MFF)– 2nd Fridays

Fri. Feb. 9 MFF is an open stage coffeehouse at the 411 Seniors' Centre, 3502 Fraser St. Doors open at 7 pm, Open stage starts at 7:30 pm and a 30-minute feature begins at 8:30 p.m. The evening finishes around 9:30 pm-10 pm. By donation. For more information, contact earlepeach@yahoo.ca

Deep Cove Coffee House – 3rd Fridays

Fri., Feb. 16 Opening: Kristina Olsen is a multi-instrumentalist (acoustic guitar, steel-body slide guitar, saxophone, concertina, banjo, mandolin and piano) as well as an award-winning songwriter with a big bluesy voice. **Feature: Andrea Superstein** is one of the most versatile voices in music today. Dubbed as "redefining jazz" her debut performance at the Vancouver International Jazz Festival earned her a Galaxie Rising Star nomination. Mount Seymour United Church, 1200 Parkgate Ave, Doors open: 7:00 pm, Warm-up acts: 7:30 pm, Feature act: 9 pm. Admission: \$15 includes baked goodies, coffee, teas, and cold drinks (Youth: \$5 / children & musicians: free).

Beats on Broadway – 4th Friday

Fri., Feb. 23 Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House, 800 E Broadway. Doors open at 7 pm, Open stage starts at 7:30 pm and a 30-minute feature begins at 8:30 p.m. The evening finishes around 9:30 pm-10 pm. By donation. For more information, earlepeach@yahoo.ca

Local Folk Resources

Available at our in-person events or order copies online

- ***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 shipping on the Fraser River and the songs.

To read more or order copies, go to <https://vfss.ca/order-form/>

Local links and beyond

Across 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., 6:30 pm jam; 7:30 pm open stage, 9 pm feature. \$8 at the door.

Rogue Folk Club live and streaming

The [Rogue](#) is offering live concerts again, as well as streaming options. Upcoming concerts include performances by long-time folk favorites as well as new faces.