

From: Vancouver Folk Song Society vanfolksong@gmail.com
Subject: VFSS events in April
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To: undisclosed-recipients;



Vancouver Folk Song Society

April 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. 30** 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.

Health check! 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.

Zoom - Now in Stereo! Have you noticed? If you join our Zoom sessions by computer — using headphones, earbuds, or external speakers, you will hear most of our feature performances in stereo!. Tablets and phones don't yet offer that experience.

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.

April 3

Open stage & features

• **Robin Holmes** has taken to folk singing like a duck to water. His dramatic style brings life to his diverse song choices, including songs in Russian. Robin loves the "Filk" musical tradition, which draws from the sci-fi and fantasy genres.

In-person only

- **Jane Slemon** is a sensitive songwriter and flautist, skookum guitar player, and builder of musical community. She sings and plays with musical groups including Erratica, J.E.S., and the Trout Lake Trio, has put out two CDs, and shares music in many communities.
- **Ken Hamer** is well-known to audiences on both sides of the Inlet and an old hand in the world of folk. Ken's guitar, mandolin, and voice span the breadth from shanties to English Country Dance tunes.
- **Leah Williams and Mark Dowding** have been performing as a duo for over 15 years, creating the magic in the storytelling through thoughtful and expressive lyrics framed by instrumental counterpoint on guitar, flute, whistle, recorder, quena and harmonica.

Apr. 17

Valerie & Yvon Raoul –Come enjoy musical treats from the French-speaking world!

Online song circle

Dylan Brown is always digging for unique songs to share. Playing a variety of instruments, he explores traditional songs from across the British Isles, singing about heartbreak, tragedy, and the sea.

Livestream for features in the second half

Ellen van der Hoeven had been a talented member of the folk music scene for decades. Often heard with her musical companions (JES, My American Boyfriend, Illiteratty), Ellen performs traditional and contemporary songs with heart and style.

Zoom link will be sent the day before the event

Seattle's **Tim Hall** is a perennial coffeeshouse folksinger who does ragtime, old-time, mari-time and just good-time songs from far and wide. He has a broad-ranging repertoire of interesting songs—witty and gritty—that he loves to share.

May 1

- **Marcus Hermary** is a relatively new member of the VFSS but has had a lifelong passion for music. He accompanies himself on banjo or guitar.
- **Barb Shaw** a.k.a. Random Old Lady. With over 50 years of musical experience, Barb's songs are steeped in Americana influences of folk, jazz, blues and rock. She's a prolific songwriter in many genres and has a talent for creating custom songs to help bring communities together around a common cause.
- **Craig Williams.** Whether with CW Bluesbox or the Jook Joint Jokers, Craig is well-known for his soulful interpretations of the country blues of the 1920s-1940s, as well as authentic originals. Let the blues make you smile.

- **Songtree.** Barbara Jackson and Earle Peach have been singing together for over 20 years. With varied instrumentation and unique harmonies, they choose their repertoire from across the centuries. In addition to their own musical projects, they perform as Songtree at coffee houses, house concerts, community festivals, special events, and fund-raisers — any place where music brings people together and celebrates the human experience.

May 15

- **Leona Axbey & Stoo Born, Lucien, Hugh Barr, Lynn McGown & Michael Pratt** More details soon.

Future events

Coming Soon! Melanie Goestl, Barry Truter, Elizabeth Dunn, and more!

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 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 leading a song or reciting a poem, especially if you have health risks. Please respect each other's choice.
- **Self-monitoring** If you are experiencing *any* [Covid symptoms](#), or signs of other illnesses, please stay home and get well soon!

VFSS news

Saturday, June 15

Vancouver Folk Song Society's 65th Anniversary Celebration

- **Mark your calendars**
- **Warm up your voices**
- **Tune up your instruments**

Hewett Hall at the Unitarian Centre, 49th and Oak St., the same venue we used for our 60th Anniversary celebration. Events run from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. It's free and open to all. Lunch and dinner available to purchase. Watch for more information and registration details in the May newsletter and on the [vfss.ca](#) website.

AGM News Since COVID, the AGM has been held on Zoom. While we miss the in-person camaraderie, it means less driving, and it's easier for our more distant members to attend. At the most recent meeting on March 27, there was a small change to one of

to attend. At the most recent meeting on March 27, there was a small change to one of our by-laws: Our constitution formerly stated that our board included 6 directors who were members-at-large elected at the AGM. A motion was passed to allow the number of members-at-large to range from 5 to 7.

The current board consists of **Jim Edmondson** / President; **Maureen Hannah** / Vice President, **Henk Piket** / Treasurer, **Lynn Applegate** / Secretary, **Steve Deering** / Past President. Members-at-large include the familiar faces of **Ian Edwards** and **Elizabeth Dunn**, and new to the board are **Barb Coward**, **Janet Dempsey**, **Bevan Bartlett**, and **Dylan Brown**.

Outside of board positions, there are lots of opportunities to become more involved with the VFSS, depending on your time and interests. We can always use help at the membership desk. Or maybe MC is more your style. The retreat and other special events also need extra hands, at the planning stage and on the day. Talk to Jim or ask at the membership desk if you're looking to contribute some time.

VFSS Now with Cookies! Sort of ...Refreshments, aka "tea and cookies" are now available at the break. It's more streamlined than pre-COVID, and please bring your own mug to reduce (or even eliminate) the dishwashing task! See you downstairs! All that singing is hungry work!

Hilary Ruffini passed away on Tuesday March 26. She is survived by her husband. She was on the VFSS Board and a regular participant at our 3rd Wednesday on-line open stages and feature live streaming. She could be counted on for having an interesting, lesser known, traditional song ready to sing a cappella and attended many retreats, where she shared her songs in the quieter, late-evening sessions. She was also a volunteer librarian and tour guide with the BC Farm Museum in Fort Langley. Earlier in her life, she was an avid mountaineer, and although her native Yorkshire may have lacked elevation, Hilary climbed Mt. Baker, amongst many others. Dig a little into the lives of VFSS members and this is what you find.

VFSS Folks Out and About

Sat., Apr. 6 Graham Baldwin and Rattlebone Band are playing for a Ceilidh, Twmpath, or Barn Dance, hosted by the Vancouver Welsh Society. The Cambrian Hall, 215 East 17th Ave., 7:30 – 10:30 pm. All Welcome. Free admission with donations gratefully received.

Caller: Jennifer Parkinson-Dow. For more information, contact Pat Morris 604 536 9556 or Email druidsgreen@gmail.com

Sun., Apr. 7 Fraser Union with Michael Burnyeat performing in a House Concert in Burnaby near the Edmonds skytrain station. Concert at 3:00 pm, doors at 2:30 pm. \$20 admission. For full details, contact Luci at lbaja4457@gmail.com.

Support the growth of folk music on the Island. Longtime VFSS member **Marian Buechert** has relocated to Vancouver Island and is seeking donations of **Rise Up Singing!** books. Marian has started a neighbourhood singing circle in her new home of Qualicum/Parksville and no one has the "Blue Book." She'd like to have at least a few copies for people to share. So if you have one that you don't need, please consider passing it along to some new and eager singers. Mary Armitage has kindly agreed to collect the donated books for Marian. Thank you!

Lynn Applegate reminds us about the **Robert Kotta Memorial Songwriting Contest**. It's sponsored by Maritime Folknet and open to northwest coast songwriters (Washington, Oregon, Alaska, and yes, British Columbia!). The writer retains all rights.

(Washington, Oregon, Alaska, or yes – British Columbia!!). The writer retains all rights to the song and there are cash prizes. The theme for 2024 is “Learning the Ropes” and the deadline is **June 4**. For full details, see [Port Gamble Maritime Music Festival](#).

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, and technical tips for Zoom events.
- Contact us with news of an upcoming performance for the next newsletter at vanfolksong@gmail.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. Live events at **City Heights Housing Society, 155 E. 37th Ave.** If there is no one 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

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Folk Music on the Beach – 2nd Fridays

Fri. Apr. 12 at the Hollyburn Sailing Club, **Features: Madelyn Read, and Michael Pratt, Lynn McGown, and Michael Burnyeat.** 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. Apr. 12 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., Apr. 19 Double-feature night! LJ Mounteney's Blues Trio / Songwriter's "In the Round". 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., Apr. 26 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 such as Holly Near, The Arntzen Family, and Shari Ulrich. There's always new favorites to discover, too.