

**From:** Vancouver Folk Song Society vanfolksong@gmail.com  
**Subject:** At the VFSS in May  
**Date:** April 28, 2024 at 3:29 PM  
**To:** info@folksongsociety.org



## Vancouver Folk Song Society

**May 2024**

[www.vfss.ca](http://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](mailto:vanfolksong@gmail.com) by **Saturday, June 1** 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](http://vfss.ca/email-lists).

**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.

**VFSS Now with Cookies!** Please bring your own mug to reduce (or even eliminate) the dishwashing task! See you downstairs! All that singing is hungry work!

## Schedule & Upcoming Events

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- **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.**

### May 1

#### Open stage & features

- **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

## In-person only

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

### Live open stage and online song circle

### Features on Zoom

- **Hugh Barr has** strong roots in both Ireland and Scotland, and his music draws upon this deep and generous tradition. He has been a longtime member of the VFSS, first joining in 1970. Let Hugh take you on a journey to the Isles!
- **Leona Axbey and Stoo Born** are long-time musical friends who first met at the VFSS many moons ago, where Stoo agreed to mentor Leona until she could fly on her own. Still occasionally playing together, goofing around, singing mellow, sometimes whimsical or heartfelt songs.
- **Lucien** started his musical journey at age 18. His musical discipline soon grew into a passion as he was inspired by various folk artists. He busks around Vancouver and develops his skills meeting other musicians through gigs and open mic events.
- **Michael Pratt & Lynn McGown** bring a wonderful sense of fun and passion wherever they go. The harmonic blend of their voices is truly compelling, with lively accompaniment by fiddle, guitar and percussion. They love it when people sing along on the choruses.

## May 29

### It's the 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday!

### Online song circle Zoom link will be

- **Includes feature performance by Dawn Berg.** She's one of our COVID Zoom buddies we made during COVID. There were some silver linings in the dark clouds of that time, and they included hearing Dawn belt out a shanty, traditional folk song, or Celtic favorite. She joins us from Anchorage, Alaska.

sent in advance.

June 5

More details in  
the next  
newsletter

- **The Burnaby Mountain Mamas ~ Pat Howard, Janie Benna and Rena Pinteric.** They have a strong conviction that they can help recraft society into a gift economy by singing- to return what they have received and to support others.
- **James Houlahan** is a folk singer-songwriter based in Los Angeles, CA. <https://jameshoulahan.com> and <https://jameshoulahan.bandcamp.com>
- **Melanie Goestl** With her powerful voice and take-no-prisoners lyrics, Melanie's songs will break your heart and then mend it.
- **Barry Truter** is a dedicated traveller who makes music from multiple traditions and always plays in "the key of connection."

**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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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

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**Sat., May 25 Celebration of life for Barry Hall,** a former musician and member of the Vancouver Folk Song Society, passed away before Christmas. His daughter is arranging an informal Celebration of Life on Saturday May 25th at Bowen Park (Room One) in Nanaimo on Vancouver Island - drop-in likely 11:00 am - 3:00. It will be showing Barry's artwork and people are encouraged to bring finger food and stay to play music. **Barry's** connections with the VFSS go back to the early 1960s, according to a [post](#) on the VFSS website.

**Sat., July 13 Celebration of Life for Madeleine De Little** 2 pm -11 pm 23253 Francis Ave, Fort Langley. BYOB, BYOS (songs). There will be a Big Sing on the back porch with lots of folks you know. Come and help us say goodbye to [MDL](#). More details to come.

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**Sat., June 15**

## Vancouver Folk Song Society's 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

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

Hewett Hall at the Unitarian Centre, 49th & Oak St. 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. It's free and open to all. Whether you're just getting acquainted with your vocal cords (or other chords) or are ready to sing and play until the last note of the evening, you're warmly invited to participate.

There will be song circles, big sings, workshops, and more, including *Blood and Gore Ballads*, **Michael Pratt**; *Voices of Canada*, **Christina Ray and Dylan Brown**; *Logging Songs*, **Rika Ruebsaat and Jon Bartlett**; *Songs From Around the World*, **Isabeau Iqbal**; *Phil Thomas's book, BC songs*, **David Querido**; *Split Shift, labour songs*, **Roger Holdstock**; *Water Songs: rivers, seas, puddles*, **Leona Axbey**; *Blues*, **Barry Truter and Craig Williams**; *Peace, Social Justice, Planetary Survival*, **Elizabeth Dunn and Jim Edmondson**; *Shanties*, **Allison Campbell**; *Songs of Healing and the Earth*, **Lynn McGown**; *Voice and Presentation*, **Lynn Applegate**; *Spiritual, Gospel and Chain Gang Songs*, **Rick Pollay**; *Child Ballads*, **Rika Ruebsaat, Jon Bartlett and Dylan Brown**  
Drop by or stay for the entire event.

Free to attend. Free tea, coffee, juice, and water. Lunch and dinner available to pre-order. **Registration opens in mid-May.** Watch the [www.vfss.ca](http://www.vfss.ca) website and a separate email announcement soon. Contact [registrar@vfss.ca](mailto:registrar@vfss.ca) with questions.

## VFSS Folks Out and About

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### Sat., May 4

- **Betty McBurney and Anthony Morgan** are performing as part of **Bergamasca Recorder Consort**, featuring a range of traditional instruments and music. 3 pm at the Hastings Mill Museum on 1575 Alma St. Admission by donation to the Museum.
- **House Concert with Brian Robertson and Michael Burnyeat** backing each other up on a variety of engaging songs and great fiddle tunes. 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm, doors at 7 pm. \$25. 2160 West 48<sup>th</sup> Ave., located near bus routes #16 and #49. Limited to 30 seats, email [robertsonb@shaw.ca](mailto:robertsonb@shaw.ca) to reserve. After your reservation is confirmed by email. Please pay via e-transfer to the same address. BYOB and we'll provide complimentary hot refreshments and light snacks.

**Support the growth of folk music on the Island.** Longtime VFSS member **Marian Buechert** is seeking donations of *Rise Up Singing!* books. Marian has started a 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 to share. If you have one that you don't need, please consider passing it along to some new and eager singers. Mary Armitage will collect the donated books for Marian. Thank you!

**June 4 deadline for Songwriting Contest.** **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, 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

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- 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](mailto:vanfolksong@gmail.com).

## OTHER EVENTS

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**Dancing up the Sun Wed May 1** from 5:30 am to 7 am, Trimble Park, 2250 Trimble St. at West 7<sup>th</sup>. Dancing the Sun up in Celebration of May Day.

### Music & More on Main – Note location of live events

Zoom on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs. Live on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month and last Sunday afternoon of each month. Live events at **City Heights Housing Society, 155 E. 37<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:timmarsongs@gmail.com) if you want to perform or attend. To get on the mailing list, email Stoo Born at [emin7b5@shaw.ca](mailto:emin7b5@shaw.ca)

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### Folk Music on the Beach – 2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays

**Fri. May 10** at the Hollyburn Sailing Club, **Features: Iona** (with Steve Deering on bodhran), **The Cru-Tones**, and **Graham Baldwin**. And the house band, The Hollyburner (with 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](mailto:carroll_neil@hotmail.com). It helps with their planning! [www.folkmusicatthebeach.com](http://www.folkmusicatthebeach.com)

### Musical Friends on Fraser (MFF)– 2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays

**Fri. May 10** 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](mailto:earlepeach@yahoo.ca)

### Deep Cove Coffee House – 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays

**Fri., May 17 Features: Blaine Dunaway & Miles Black, and Earle Peache & Illiteratty.** 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 – 4<sup>th</sup> Friday

**Fri., May. 24** 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

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](mailto:earlepeach@yahoo.ca)

### **Fundraiser with The Arntzen Family and Kristina Olsen**

**Where the Coho Flash Silver**, written by Lloyd Arntzen, is a well-known song at the Folk. The Arntzen family (including Lloyd), along with Kristina Olson, are performing at the Mel Lehan Hall at St. James Community Hall on **Fri., May 17**. The concert is sponsored by the East Van Gogos and the Rogue Folk Club as a fundraiser for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. \$35 donation. More information on the Rogue [website](#).

## **Local Folk Resources**

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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**

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### **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, with new favorites to discover, too.