

VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

*Bringing people together for the preservation, enjoyment
and advancement of bluegrass and related acoustic music.*

Message From the VBA Board

"Greetings to VBA members at this holiday time of year! Greetings also go out to other readers, whom we welcome to join our music club. We will be starting our annual membership drive in early January.

Membership is \$25 for individuals, and \$40 for couples. A great value considering the benefits of preferred pricing at all VBA jams, workshops, and concerts. And best of all you are supporting the funding base for a unique branch of the Victoria musical community. The "down home welcome," and the network of friends one makes through VBA is a "rural" experience in an urban community. People are so supportive of each other no matter what level of musical development one is at. Come find out for yourself! For newcomers the Tuesday night Slow Pitch and circle jam is a great place to get started. And we always welcome listeners free of charge or by donation if you are so inclined! Check us out online at victoriabluegrass.ca for the times and dates of jams and all other events.

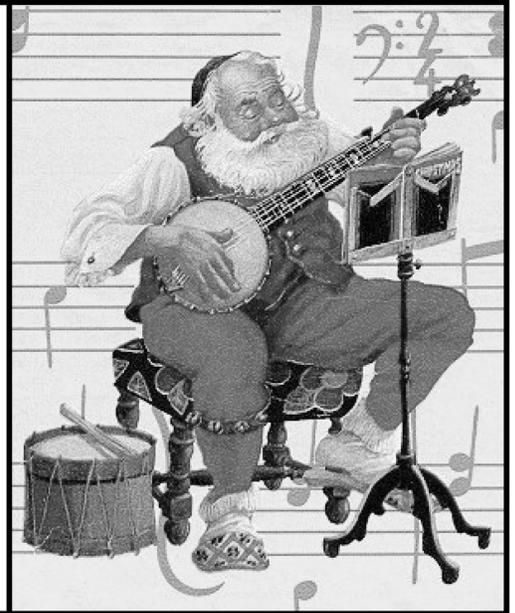
While visiting our website, please note a new posting we have included entitled, "Policy on Video and Audio Recording" at VBA events. Updating this policy, and posting it in a place where any and all can see it is something our membership asked of the board at the 2008 AGM. The board has worked on this, and has now posted this policy at victoriabluegrass.ca for everyone's perusal. Thanks for respecting performer's rights, and keeping the performance environment comfortable and fun for everyone involved!

Annual Holiday Potluck Jam Extravaganza ~ and ~ BAND SCRAMBLE

The month of December we have regular jams on December 2 and December 9. Then December 16 we have our annual holiday bash. This year we are going to have a "band scramble" night along with goodies, socializing, and jamming. To find out just what a "band scramble" is check out page 2. Just know this; a band scramble is both terrifying and really fun to be a part of, and makes for a great show.

Admission to this event is by donation of non-perishable food items and/or cash for the Mustard Seed Food Bank and services. Every year VBA members and friends have managed to make sizable donations from our musical community to people having hard times. Please come out, and please make a donation.

Our annual Youth Scholarship for one week's tuition to the Sorrento Bluegrass Camp in the Shuswap area is now open to applications. This is often a once in a lifetime experience for young musicians. Please think of some young person you would consider a good fit for this and encourage them to apply. See details in this newsletter.



Thanks to everyone who participates in VBA for the great energy and music you have contributed so far this fall and winter.

All contributions and notices of bluegrass and related acoustic music events for the December VBA newsletter should be sent to Scott Campbell at: campscott@gmail.com by December 15. See you at the VBA, and remember...

Keep on the Sunny Side!

~ VBA Board of Directors

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Victoria Bluegrass Association
c/o Old Town Strings Repair Shop
1034 Hillside Ave.,
Victoria, BC V8T 2A5

VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

UPCOMING EVENTS

VBA **Board of Directors** **2008/2009**

President
Bob McKechnie

Past President
Larry Statland

Vice President
Kelly Sherwin

Secretary
Carol Thibault

Treasurer
David Simon

Member at Large
Bev Young

Member at Large
Andrew Lloyd

Member at Large
Lani Royce

VBA Tuesday Night Bluegrass Jams

Tuesday Orange Hall Jams are: December 2, 9, at 7:30pm to 10pm. Slow Pitch, Moderated Circle and Festival Bluegrass Jams, Tuesdays at the Orange Hall, 1620 Fernwood Road, 7:30pm. Players of all levels welcome.

The cornerstone of the **VBA** is the weekly bluegrass jam, where players, singers and listeners can come out and indulge their love of bluegrass every Tuesday evening.

Contact: Bob McKechnie

Please Note: Band Scramble: Dec 16, there will be no regular VBA jam Dec 23 & 30; Next jam Jan 6; Players \$2, listeners by donation. See more info below.

Annual Holiday Potluck Jam Extravaganza and BAND SCRAMBLE

Tuesday December 16, 7:30pm to 10pm. Orange Hall - 1620 Fernwood Rd, Victoria BC.

The Scramble is an activity where people who want to participate enter their name and instrument (guitar, mandolin, bass, dobro, vocals, fiddle....and banjo) in a 'hat' with others of the same instrument. Bands are then formed by picking names out of each hat. The pairings are made and they have to meet and work out a song in 15 minutes in some corner of the Orange Hall. They must also come up with a name for their new band. They put their band names in a hat, and are called to the stage on-the-fly by someone picking out of the hat. Each new band then performs to the delight of those in attendance.

Other Upcoming Community Events **Concert and Square Dance**

Friday December 12. White Eagle Hall - 90 Dock St, Victoria. All ages. No dancing experience needed! Doors at 7:30pm, concert at 8pm. Square dance to follow. Tickets sliding scale \$10 - \$12, or \$20 for a family.

Tickets available at Larsen Music and Lyle's Place.

Concert featuring the *Foghorn Duo* from Portland. Caleb Klauder and Stephen "Sammy" Lind began playing music together in 2000 in Portland, Oregon. They have performed traditional American Old-Time music all over the globe with their band the Foghorn Stringband, alongside banjo/vocalist Riley Baugus and multi-instrumentalist/ composer Dirk Powell. As a duo they switch between guitar, mandolin, fiddle, banjo, and vocals. Their vocals are simple and honest, with intertwining harmonies similar to the Carter Family and Stanley Brothers. Although their repertoire is mainly traditional, Caleb's stellar original songs and tunes fit right in next to any classic. To listen, go to www.myspace.com/foghornduo.

Square Dance featuring the *Foghorn Duo*, joined by Jason Romero (banjo), Pharis Romero (guitar), and Nadine Landry from Whitehorse, known for her great vocals and bass playing in the band Hungry Hill. The caller is Michael from Portland, a fixture of the Portland old time music scene, and one of the reasons for the thriving culture of old time music in the Pacific Northwest. He's travelled and studied with fiddlers and callers across North America, and is known for making square dances easy and fun for everyone from the beginner to the experienced dancer.

VBA YOUNG MUSICIAN BURSARY AWARD

Can you imagine a whole week at the BC Bluegrass Workshop in Sorrento on the sunny shores of Shuswap Lake? Can you see yourself spending “an inspiring, challenging and joyous week with others who share your passion for playing music? The BC Bluegrass Workshop provides a friendly, noncompetitive environment for everyone from beginners to advanced players. The well-planned program provides ample opportunity for class time, workshops, thematic jam sessions and many other spontaneous activities. The enthusiastic and supportive instructors are chosen for their skill and experience as teachers as well as their abilities as performers.” (BC Bluegrass Workshop Web Site). Well, for a qualified “young musician” this dream could come true. For the past five years the VBA has supported young bluegrass musicians through our Young Musician Bursary Award which allows a person age 25 years or younger to attend a week long BC Bluegrass Workshop at Sorrento, BC (near Salmon Arm).

Are you the lucky individual who will win a week in Sorrento in August 2009 at the 19th Annual BC Bluegrass Workshop?

Here are the details:

Applicants must:

- be age 25 or younger, as of December 31/2008
- be a 2008/2009 member of the VBA
- not have previously attended a BC Bluegrass Workshop
- play a traditional bluegrass instrument: guitar, fiddle, banjo, mandolin, dobro, stand up bass

Letters of application will be accepted until December 31/2008 and the bursary will be awarded at the end of February, 2009. Send letters of application to the VBA, c/o 1034 Hillside Ave., Victoria, BC, V8T 2A5

Past VBA winners include:

Diana Davies and James Whittall (2003)
Lee Watson (2004)
Teresa Sims (2005)
Peter LaRue (2006)
Cathy Lloyd (2007)
Shanti Bremmer (2008)



Barbara Pedrick, Photography

Feedback

We here at the VBA are always looking for workshop opportunities to instruct and inspire new musicians and teach the old dogs some new tricks. Here's what one of our members had to say about last month's fiddle bowing workshop with Michael:

“As a relatively new fiddler, this was a great opportunity to learn some Old-Time bowing techniques, as well as come away with some insights and a bit more understanding about what the Old-Time fiddlers are doing to create their rhythms. I feel very inspired and even more determined to keep fiddling along with the Old-Time fiddlers, using lessons, workshops, jams and CDs, and to help carry on this tradition of learning new tunes by playing-along with the fiddler, over-and-over-and-over ...Keepin' tuned,”

Wendy Anthony

Thanks Wendy, we're glad you enjoyed the workshop. We look forward to providing more of these in the future and getting suggestions from our members about what types of workshops they would like us to put together.

Bluegrass Happenings:

In British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest.

The following is a list of bluegrass and related events happening in the upcoming season.

Ongoing

Dec 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Old-Time String Music Jam. Mondays, 7 to 9:30 pm at Spiral Cafe, 418 Craigflower Rd, Victoria, BC. More info: www.myspace.com/thespiraloldtimegroove. Tune Lists & Samples: spiraloldtime.googlepages.com

Dec 2, 9, 16: VBA Bluegrass Jam. Tuesdays, 7:30 to 10 pm at Orange Hall, 1620 Fernwood Rd, Victoria BC. Slow Pitch & Moderated Intermediate Circle Jams. Players of all levels welcome. Please Note: Band Scramble: Dec 16; No VBA jam: Dec 23 & 30; Next jam Jan 6; Admission: Players \$2, listeners free. More info: Bob McKechnie

Dec 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: VBA's Sing Me Back Home, Bluegrass On The Air. Wednesdays, 3:00 to 4:00 pm; with your host Job Gordon. CFUV 101.9 FM; Cable 104.3 FM

Dec 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: Cornerstone Bluegrass Jam. Wednesdays, 7:30 to 10 pm at Cornerstone Cafe & Resource Centre, Fernwood at Gladstone, Victoria, BC, featuring premier acoustic string band musicians. Enjoy some hot coffee or chocolate while listening (for free) to local top acoustic roots musicians jam it out with each other, organized by the Fernwood Bluegrass Coalition (FBC), a group of local business/promoters/musicians.

Dec 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: Sidney Wednesday Night Jam (Sidney). Wednesdays, 7 to 10 pm at St Paul's United Church, Malaview & 5th St., Sidney, BC. Stringed Acoustic Instruments Only, all levels of players welcome. 1st Wednesday: Country. 2nd Wednesday, Folk. 3rd Wednesday, Bluegrass. 4th Wednesday, Fiddle Jam. 5th Wednesday (when applicable), Open Stage. Admission: \$2 per participant, \$1 per listener. Come with at least 2 favourite songs, photocopied (words, chords, chord charts) to Build A Song/Tune Book.

Dec 5: Victoria Fiddle Society Monthly Jam. Friday, 7 to 10 pm. Please Note New Location: St. Matthias Anglican Church Hall, 600 Richmond Ave. (corner of Richardson St.), Victoria, BC. All musicians, all ages and skill levels are welcome. Break-out space for advanced fiddlers. First Friday of every Month (except July & August). Admission: VFS members Free, \$5 for drop-ins. More info: www.bckitchenparty.com

Dec 7, 14, 21, 28: Sunday Afternoon Hootenanny at Logan's Tavern, 1821 Cook St., Victoria, BC, every Sunday at 4pm.

Dec 7, 21: Sooke Legion Bluegrass & Old Time Music Jam (Sooke) Sunday, 2 to 5:30pm at the Sooke Legion, 6726 Eustace, Sooke, first and third Sunday of the month (October to May), no admission. Contact: Eric Day

Dec 12: Square Dance with The Foghorn Duo. Friday, Doors at 7:30 pm, Concert at 8 pm, Square Dance to follow; at White Eagle Hall, 90 Dock St, Victoria, BC. All ages family square dance. No dancing experience needed! Tickets: sliding scale \$10 - \$12, or \$20 for a family, available at Larsen Music and Lyle's Place; More info: www.myspace.com/foghornduo

Dec. 12: Shearwater Bluegrass at Deep Cove Folk Club. St. John's United Church, 10990 W. Saanich Rd. Deep Cove, BC Open stage: 8 pm, Concert: 9 pm Admission: \$5, Please bring food items or donation for the Sidney Lions Food Bank

Dec 13: Bandit Benefit For Cool Aid. Saturday, 1:30 to 4:30pm at the Cool Aid Community Centre, 755 Pandora St, Victoria, BC. The 2nd annual Bandit Benefit chili supper & concert for the homeless & poor in Victoria. Guest performers: The Turnpike Bandits, Clover Point Drifters & other local bands; Admission: Free

For The Banjo Lovers Out There

"When you want genuine music - music that will come right home to you like a bad quarter, suffuse your system like strychnine whiskey, go right through you like Brandreth's pills, ramify your whole constitution like the measles, and break out on your hide like the pin feather pimples on a picked goose - when you want all this, just smash your piano, and invoke the glory-beaming banjo!"

Mark Twain

"Enthusiastic Eloquence"

in the San Francisco Dramatic Chronicle

23 June 1865