

VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

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

Message From the VBA Board

Looks like the season is settling in nicely! We've had some special guests at the Slow Pitch jams last month, which included Rhonda Lou, Eric Adams, and 2009 Sorrento BCBW Bursary winner Garrett Thomson. A great show for our October feature with *Headwater* from Vancouver! Good rhythms, songs and spirit. Victoria was *Headwater's* send-off show before they flew overseas on tour.



Corner Grass

Upcoming this month we have **Tim O'Brien** with **Old Man Luedecke** as a special concert on November 14th (see page 3). To avoid disappointment buy or reserve a ticket soon! **Corner Grass** will grace the stage as our feature act on November 24th. Luann Burton, an active member of the VBA is part of this fun trio, you don't want to miss!

If you haven't yet, consider a membership to the VBA! Take advantage of a price break on Special Concerts, Feature Nights, and Workshops, and

support the acoustic community. Speaking of workshops: James Whittall once again was successful in providing some good teachings, techniques on Halloween Saturday. Thanks James!

2009 Sorrento Bursary:

If you are 25 or younger as of Dec. 31st, are a VBA member, have never been to the British Columbia Bluegrass Workshop and have nothing to do in August for a week but want to immerse yourself in your instrument... then you are eligible to apply for a registration bursary from the VBA!

The deadline to send the VBA a letter as to why you think you should be the chosen candidate this year to go to bluegrass camp is due December 31, 2009. Send your application letter via email to the board panel to review. For those of you over 25, please forward this information to those you know may be interested. The BCBW website is www.musicworkshops.ca if you want to have a look.

Coming up in December we will be having our **Seasonal Celebration Potluck Jam and Band Scramble Extravaganza** on December 15th, and will be closed on the last two Tuesdays (December 22 & 29). December 8th Slow Pitch will be hosted by some elves pulling out some seasonal songs... more info next month. All contributions and notices of bluegrass and related acoustic music gigs for the next month VBA newsletter should be sent to Scott

Have a great month! 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



Tim O'Brien

VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

UPCOMING EVENTS

VBA Board of Directors 2009/2010

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Kelly Sherwin

Past President

Bob McKechnie

Vice President

Pharis Romero

Secretary

Colleen O'Brien

Treasurer

David Simon

Member at Large

Linda Henson

Member at Large

Judith E. Tharp

Member at Large

Kate Cino

VBA Membership

\$ 25 single

\$ 40 couples

VBA Tuesday Night Bluegrass Jams

November 3, 10, 17 @ 7:30pm, Orange Hall, 1620 Fernwood Road

Slow Pitch, Moderated Circle and Festival Bluegrass Jams, Players of all levels welcome. Players \$2 for members, \$3 for non-members, listeners by donation.

Contact: Kelly Sherwin

VBA Open Stage/ Feature Night

Tuesday, Nov. 24 at Orange Hall, Admission: \$5 for members, \$7 for non-members

Doors open at 7:30 pm.

7:45 – 8:45 pm – Open Stage

9:00 – 10:00 pm – Feature Act: *Corner Grass*

Corner Grass from Sidney, BC is a lively trio that packs a punch with rock solid rhythm, hot fiddle, and vibrant vocals. **Luann Burton** on upright bass, **Jim Sadlish** with his fiddle and **Clarence Boudreau** playing guitar, all share singing lead as well as harmony lines. Together they blend naturally and serve up their selections with energy and finesse. Employing multiple vocal arrangements along with an exciting repertoire (including Bluegrass, Old Time, Gospel, Texas Swing and Early Country) they offer great variety while delivering the promise of their slogan ...

"Music from the Hills Played in Your Corner "

Contact Jeb Gordon to sign up for open stage

VBA Workshop

Michael from Portland's Old Time Fiddle Bowing Workshop

Saturday December 5th at the Orange Hall. 2-4 pm.

Members \$20, Non-members \$25

To register, please contact Pharis Romero

For the last three years Michael has been teaching and refining a workshop focusing on bowing for Old Time fiddle playing. His workshop has received rave reviews from participants across North America, including at the Festival of American Fiddletunes (Port Townsend, WA).

This is a two hour workshop focusing on identifying, naming, slowing down and playing the exciting rhythms, pulses, and drones that give Old Time fiddling it's distinctive sound. The object is to point out and demystify the half of old time fiddling that often gets neglected: the right hand. In the workshop Michael breaks down each of the bowing movements or tools that he uses, plays them in context of a tune, and teaches the group to replicate them. Michael says that it's the workshop he wishes he had taken ten years ago when he first started fiddling.

This workshop uses mostly your right hand to get your muscle memory used to playing the rhythms. It's appropriate for all levels of fiddlers and anyone who can follow a simple melody by ear on the fiddle.

Tim O'Brien

with Old Man Luedecke

Victoria folk and bluegrass fans are in for a rare treat on **November 14th**. Two award-winning singer/songwriters, each a riveting solo performer, will be in concert at the Fairfield United Church at 8:00 PM.

Old Man Luedecke from Nova Scotia is the opening act. His upbeat anthems on edgy themes have captivated North American audiences for years. A virtuoso on the clawhammer banjo, Luedecke sings eloquently about real life situations - such as "I Quit My Job".

Luedecke's 2009 recording *Proof of Love* won a Juno Award for Best Roots and Traditional Album of the Year: Solo. www.oldmanluedecke.ca



Tim O'Brien, whose career spans three decades and several genres, is the feature act. In 2006, Tim won the International Bluegrass Music Association's award for Male Vocalist of the Year. The same year his CD *Fiddler's Green* won a Grammy for Best Traditional Folk Album. In his on-line forum, O'Brien talks about his 2008 solo album *Chameleon* as a return to a more personal and accessible folk roots style. This is vocal story telling brought to life through a flexible melodic voice and expertise on the fiddle, guitar, mandolin and banjo. www.timobrien.net

Still not convinced? Consider this: Larry Stevens and James Whittall both consider Tim O'Brien to be a god in the realm of acoustic music.

Fairfield United Church, 1303 Fairfield Road

Doors open at 7:30 PM Concert starts at 8:00 PM

Tickets are \$20 (cash - available at Larsen's Music and Long and McQuade)

VBA member's tickets are \$15 available Tuesday nights at the Orange Hall
or by reservation

To reserve tickets please email Colleen O'Brien

Bluegrass Happenings: In British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest

Ongoing

- Sundays** **Flash in the Pan** at **Swan's Brew Pub**, 506 Pandora St., 8:30-11:30 pm. Bluegrass and Old-Time beauty.
www.myspace.com/finthep
- Sunday Afternoon Hootenanny** at **Logan's Tavern**, 1821 Cook St., Victoria, every Sunday at 4 pm Hosted by Carolyn Mark. Free admission. More info: 250-360-1832
- ~~Appalachian-Style Old-Time Jam~~ Appalachian-style Old-Time acoustic string music jam at the Bent Mast has been **cancelled** until further notice due to provincial bureaucracy
- Mondays** **Old-Time String Music Jam** Mondays, 7 to 9:30 pm at **Spiral Cafe**, 418 Craigflower Rd, Victoria.
More info: www.myspace.com/thespiraloldtimegroove Tune Lists & Samples: spiraloldtime.googlepages.com
- Tuesdays** **VBA Bluegrass Jam** Tuesdays, 7:30 to 10 pm at **Orange Hall**, 1620 Fernwood Rd, Victoria. Slow Pitch & Moderated Intermediate Circle Jams. Players of all levels welcome. Admission: players \$2, non-members \$3, listeners free. More info: Kelly Sherwin
- Wednesdays** **VBA's Sing Me Back Home** Bluegrass on the Air, Wednesday afternoons, 2:00 -3:00 pm **on CFUV** 101.9 FM, cable 104.3 FM, with your host Jeb Gordon
- 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.
- Sidney Wednesday Night Jam** . Wednesdays, 7 to 10 pm at **St Paul's United Church**, Office Entrance, Malaview & 5th St., Sidney, BC. Stringed Acoustic Instruments only, all levels of players welcome.
1st Wed.: Country, 2nd Wed.: Folk, 3rd Wed.: Bluegrass, 4th Wed.: Fiddle Jam, 5th Wed.(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.
- Fridays** **Victoria Fiddle Society** Monthly Jam, **Friday Nov. 6**, 7 to 10 pm. At **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; Admission: VFS members Free, \$5 for drop-ins. More info: www.bckitchenparty.com

Events

- Nov 20** **Shearwater**, Courtenay, BC
Friday, 8 pm at Joe's Garage, 115 5th St., Courtenay, BC. Admission: \$15. Tickets available at Sound Advice or at the door. More info: 250-890-3340, tamfas@island.net & www.shearwaterband.com
- Nov 21** **Shearwater**, Victoria, BC, Supports Our Place Society
Saturday, 8 pm at Fairfield United Church, 1303 Fairfield Rd, Victoria, BC. A portion of the proceeds will go to Our Place Society, which supports Greater Victoria's most vulnerable citizens, through transitional housing, meals, support and advocacy, hygiene facilities, training and more. Admission: \$15. Tickets available at Larsen Music, Long & McQuade, Ivy's Bookshop, or at the door. More info: 250-598-4968 & dave@daveclarke.ca & www.shearwaterband.com