

VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

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

Message From the VBA Board

*"The Mayan calendar says we may be done,
And that floods will wash away the sinnin'
The good news is, we've almost 12 months more,
For singing and a pickin' and a grinnin'!"*

Happy New Year everyone! Hope you all had a great holiday season and that Santa remembered to stop by your house. Well, the Doomsday predictions aside, your Board can tell you with a lot more certainty, that 2012 will be a good one for the VBA, and you can look forward to a season chock full of great entertainment and bluegrass activities. Alan Law and his committee have been working hard to bring in top notch feature acts, and provide music instruction workshops that are geared to your specific interests, and that really deliver. Check out this month's offerings, and make sure to respond early, as we expect full houses.

Our Annual Holiday Potluck, Auction, and Band Scramble in December was a great success again. We had 5 scramble bands this year, and everyone happened to pick a different seasonal tune to perform - how perfect was that! The hall downstairs smelled of spiced apple cider, the tables were laden with potluck goodies, and it was just a good time for the Christmas spirit to kick in.

Thanks to everyone for their generous donations of food, goods and money, and to the hard work of our auctioneer, Doug van Dine.....and by the way, that big apple pie that went under the gavel was delicious! The VBA was able to give the Mustard Seed a cheque in the amount of \$344.76, as well as deliver a truckload of supplies that was very much appreciated. A note of thanks to Bob and Sandra for taking the goods down to them in their truck.

We've been receiving excellent feedback from you on the regular Tuesday night jams and the new formats that have been introduced. The more advanced players can also look forward to the hosted 'theme' jams that will be starting up soon, so lot's of good playing opportunities. Don't forget that on Tuesday, Jan. 10th we will be foregoing the regular jam night at the hall in order to present Tony Furtado and Luke Price in concert. This is a show not to be missed folks!

We are extending the application period for the Young Musician's Bursary for 2012 to the end of this month. If you are a VBA member, 25 years old or younger, and would like to take instruction in a traditional bluegrass instrument at the BC Bluegrass Workshop in Sorrento (or know someone that would like to join and be considered), please send a note stating your interest to the president@victoriabluegrass.ca.

See you around, and remember.....**Keep on the Sunny Side!**

Calling Young Musicians! Deadline Extended: January 31, 2012

Each year the Victoria Bluegrass Association awards one week of tuition to a young aspiring musician to attend a BC Bluegrass workshop in Sorrento in late August. To qualify for the Young Musician's Bursary, you need to be 25 years or younger as at Dec 31st, 2011, want to take instruction in a traditional bluegrass instrument at the Sorrento Bluegrass workshop in 2012, haven't attended the subject workshops before, and be a member in good standing with the VBA. Applications are now being accepted: email president@victoriabluegrass.ca indicating who you are, and why you think you should be selected.



**Tony Furtado and Luke Price
Concert**

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VBA Membership

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For more information
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VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION EVENTS

VBA Tuesday Night Bluegrass Jams

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

Players: \$2 for members, \$3 dollars for non-members. Listeners by donation. Contact Al Planiden at president@victoriabluegrass.ca

Theme Jam: Songs of Hank Williams. Tuesday January 17th at 7:45

The VBA is introducing Theme Jams to supplement the regular jams at the hall. For our first theme jam, we move slightly outside the traditional bluegrass tent to sing and pick in honour of Country Music's greatest legend. Larry Stevens and Bob McKechnie lead this jam devoted exclusively to the songs of Hank Williams.

These jams are like any other - you are welcome to join the inner circle - but need to bring along a Hank song to share. You are strongly encouraged to bring songs you have rehearsed and can perform comfortably. Some of you like to work from a songbook or chart, and that is ok, but everyone will have the most fun if you can perform without burying your face in a book. Players need to be proficient enough to follow the chords, keep a good rhythm, and perhaps take the odd break. Listeners and quiet plunkers outside the circle are welcome too.

Special Concert: Tony Furtado together with Luke Price

Tuesday, January 10th, 2012, Orange Hall, 1620 Fernwood Road. Doors open at 7:30pm

Admission: \$20 General, \$15 VBA Members

Contact: Alan Law at 250-388-4520 for info.

Tony Furtado began his recording career with a 10-year stint at Rounder Records working with the likes of Allison Krauss, Kelly Joe Phelps and Jerry Douglas. During that time, he was drawn to slide guitar by players like Ry Cooder and David Lindley. Over the years, Tony continued to broaden his musical palette and began singing and songwriting as well. He's been called a genius on banjo and slide guitar and his own hybrid of Americana and indie rock is captivating. Onstage, whether playing with a band or solo, he owns the room, mixing stories of his travels with musicianship that is off the charts. Now, a confident, charming live performer, Tony's newer material reveals a range of topics and emotion far beyond the expected.

Luke Price is a talented young player known for his great balance of taste, rhythm, and technical ability. He pushes genres, styles, and fellow musicians into new territory while respecting the great musical traditions that have come before. At a young age, Luke began competing in fiddle contests and made a name for himself winning the National Title at ages 12 and 17, along with many awards from contests all across the country including the Fiddlers Frolics in Hallettsville, Texas and Grand Masters in Nashville, Tennessee. While continuing with Texas fiddling and contest traditions, he expanded his playing to many other styles: jazz, soul, blues, funk, bluegrass, and pop. After completing his B.A. in Professional Music at the esteemed Berklee College of Music, he moved west to Portland, where he continues to record and perform his original music. He teaches privately, while also serving as an Associate Professor at Lewis & Clark College. Luke is passionate about passing on fiddling traditions, while creating new music measured with taste, technical control, and joy.



January Feature Act: The Sirens

Tuesday, Jan 31, 2012, Orange Hall, 1620 Fernwood Road. Doors open at 7:30pm Members \$5, Non-members \$7. Contact Alan Law at 250-388-4520 for info.

Open Stage first half of evening (7:45 - 8:45 pm) with the feature act after a short intermission. To sign up for the Open Stage, contact Jeb Gordon at 778.678-4570 or vicbluegrass@yahoo.ca. Open Stage performers are exempt from the admission fee.



Lisa Feeney and Jamie Elliott met in 2005 at the University of Victoria and ever since they've been singing and playing all over town. The girls developed a love for old-time music and started a trio with banjo player, Caroline Tanner. The three girls danced and sang and played for many joyful years to come until Caroline headed south and Jamie and Liza were left as a duo. This past summer, the two sirens were dancing around, as they do, and fate came a knockin'. An endlessly beautiful and talented young woman named Ali Romanow would soon be persuaded to join the fun with the two singing sirens. They will make their guitars, banjos, fiddles and occasionally trumpets ring through the rafters for all to enjoy!

Workshops:

To register: Alan Law, 250.388-4520 or email workshops@victoriabluegrass.ca. Space is limited. Register early to avoid disappointment.

Tony Furtado: Banjo Workshop Wed., Jan. 11th, 2012, 7:30pm

Location TBA. \$30 General, \$25 VBA Members

Tony's banjo workshop will cover various techniques and tunings that he employs in his style that others might find interesting and rewarding to explore. There will be plenty of room for questions and sidepaths.



Luke Price: Fiddle Workshop Wed., Jan. 11th, 2012, 7:30pm

Location TBA. \$30 General, \$25 VBA Members

Luke has found that bowing and improvisation are the areas where most string players can improve the greatest. His fiddle workshop will focus on bowing and improvisation in various styles.



Chris Herbst: Guitar Workshop Sat., Jan. 28th, 2012, 2:00pm

Location TBA. \$25 General, \$20 VBA Members

Are you stuck in G-position, a little nervous about trying out something fancy in another key? In this workshop, you will learn to play bluegrass and country guitar classics in keys other than G. We'll check out the different qualities of each position, all without a capo. Tabbed handouts in the keys of E, D, A, C will be provided, showing basic bass runs and some tag licks. This workshop is for players who know basic chords, and who are comfortable changing between them.



Shanti Bremer: Metronome Workshop Sat., Feb. 11th, 2012, 10:00am

Location TBA. \$25 General, \$20 VBA Members

We will learn how to use a metronome, and how to employ the 'Nome to improve your timing and rhythm. We'll explore using these skills for other areas of playing, such as kickoffs and going between breaks and backup. The goal will be to learn to love the 'Nome, and to develop an intimate relationship with this amazing tool!



Annual Holiday Potluck, Auction Band Scramble & Jam Extravaganza



Bluegrass Happenings

in British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest (all events in Victoria BC, unless otherwise indicated)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Afternoon Hootenanny at <i>Logan's Tavern</i> 1821 Cook St., 4:00pm Hosted by Carolyn Mark. Free admission More info: 250-360-1832</p>	<p>Spiral Grove: Old-Time String Music Jam at <i>Spiral Cafe</i> 418 Craigflower Rd., 7-9:30pm</p>	<p>VBA Bluegrass Jam at the <i>Orange Hall</i>, 1620 Fernwood Rd., 7:30-10pm Slow Pitch and Circle Jams. Players of all levels welcome. Admission: players \$2 (non-members \$3), listeners by donation. More info: Al Planiden, apache@shaw.ca</p>	<p>Cornerstone Bluegrass Jam at <i>Cornerstone Cafe & Resource Centre</i> Fernwood at Gladstone 7:30-10pm. Featuring premier acoustic string band musicians. Enjoy hot coffee or chocolate while listening to local top acoustic roots musicians jam it out. Organized by the Fernwood Bluegrass Coalition, a group of local business/promoters/musicians. More info: Larry Stevens at larrystevens@shaw.ca</p>	<p>Bluegrass Brunch with the <i>Stowaways</i> at <i>Logan's Tavern</i> 1821 Cook St., 1:00 - 4:00pm every Saturday. Admission Free. More info: 250-360-1832 Brunch begins at 11:00. Great food, music and friends.</p>
<p>Sooke Legion Bluegrass and Acoustic Jam 6726 Eustace Rd., Sooke 1st and 3rd Sunday 2:30-5:00pm (new time!) Contact: Al Planiden, 250-642-3395</p>		<p>The Sweet Lowdown at <i>The Fernwood Inn</i> 302 Gladstone Ave., 8-11pm. Amanda Blied, Shanti Bremer, Miriam Sonstenes. More info: www.myspace.com/the.sweet.lowdown</p>		
<p>Bluegrass / Old Time Jam at <i>Ocean Island Backpackers Inn</i> 791 Pandora Ave., 8pm-12am, all ages Hosted by Doosie and Decker. Bring an instrument along and be part of the fun!</p>		<p>Rock Island Ramblers at <i>Swan's</i> 506 Pandora Street, 9-12 Performers: Oliver Swain, Ivonne Hernandez, Paul Lange and James Whittall</p>		
<p>The Moonshiners at <i>Swan's</i> 506 Pandora Ave., 8:30-11pm. Performers: Zev Roman, Miriam Sonstenes, Chris Herbst, Mike Brooks and Cluny McPherson</p>				

Musicians Wanted

Music Lessons with Chris Herbst: Guitar, Dobro and Music Theory. 250-885-5999

Guitar and Mandolin Lessons with James Whittall: Ten years experience teaching bluegrass. Beginner to advanced players. It's never too late to sound better. 778-430-7729 or mandolinjames@gmail.com.

Victoria Mandolin Orchestra: New members on various instruments including guitar and bass welcomed. Intermediate level playing and music reading. Practice: Tuesdays 7:30-9:30pm. Contact: Chandra at chandrac@shaw.ca. Check out: <http://www.members.shaw.ca/cmvarcoe>

Seen Around VBA

