

VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

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

Message from the VBA Board

*"Big moon, big moon
Big moon, keep shining bright
Big moon, keep on shining bright
Your gonnna light my way, home tonight"*

Wow, how about that 'Super' moon we've had the past few nights, hanging in the sky lika bigga pizza pie! Probably a song or two out there that's been inspired by that beauty.

Those of you that were at our feature night last month (and were lucky enough to get a seat) were treated to a great open stage and a very spirited performance by Four Chords of Wood. Yes, it was standing room only, and the energy in the room was something else.

One could get the impression that the Orange Hall was a happening place, and that the VBA was a pretty good outfit to hook up with for entertainment!

Speaking of which, thanks to everyone that renewed their memberships, and to all that are joining the VBA for the first time. This year's winner of the 'get your membership free' draw was none other than the president of the VBA, so it was obvious that the event was fixed. Apologies to those who signed up at the last minute, and were suckered into thinking they had a shot at it. However, on the positive side, the word is the money will be added to some already significant donations made to the VBA recently. We would like to thank Doug van Dine, Debbie Dergousoff, and the Foggy Hogtown Boys for their contributions to the organization. It's very much appreciated and will be going towards supporting our Young Musician Bursary recipients this year.

At the end of this month, we're NOT doing our usual members all open stage night. That has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 5th in conjunction with our Annual General Meeting. We wanted to squeeze in another feature act for May, and it's a good one, with Elena Yeung and Karl Sommerfeld, coming all the way from Creston, BC.

You will find the details for the AGM/Members open stage night on the next page. We felt it was a clever strategy to get people out, and to combine a little business with pleasure.....the sooner we get the formal stuff out of the way, the sooner we will be eating cake and playing music! Due to the larger number of participants for this special evening, performers are limited to one song only please, not the normal three.

We will have a spot or two available on the VBA Board this year if anyone is interested in serving, and we're always looking for volunteers to help out with things if you're not able to commit to being on the board itself. If you would like to become involved with the organization, just let any of the current board members know.

You've no doubt noticed that our newsletter has gotten quite 'compact' the past while, and one of the reasons is that a lot of effort now goes into our website. We're very proud of it, and encourage you to check it out if you haven't already - you'll like it! It's an active site that is updated as needed, and gives you a whole lot more and timely information on the bluegrass scene than we can ever hope to provide you with once a month here.

On the 12th of this month we have a Swing Rhythm Guitar Workshop for you, and on the 15th there's another fun theme jam at the hall, and this time it's all about train songs. Check these out!

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



**Elena Yeung & Karl Sommerfeld
May Feature Act**

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VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION EVENTS

Complete Events Listing at: www.victoriabluegrass.ca or www.facebook.com/victoria.bluegrass

VBA Tuesday Night Bluegrass Jams

Tuesday Night Jams are at the Orange Hall, 1620 Fernwood Road. Doors open at 7:30pm, Jams start at 7:45pm. Slow Pitch, Moderated Circle, and Festival Bluegrass Jams. 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: "Ramblers, Robbers, Wrecks and Runaways", Tuesday May 15th, 7:45pm at the Orange Hall

It's all about **Train Songs** this time, and hosts **Barny Hiney** and **Elizabeth Bergen** listen to the jingle, the rumble and the roar, building steam as they bring Old 97 and its lonesome whistle through the curves, fills and tunnels, making up time, avoiding Jesse and the boys, bringing in the Georgia mail. Players need to be proficient enough to follow the chords, keep a good rhythm, and perhaps take the odd break. You are strongly encouraged to bring songs that you have rehearsed and can perform comfortably.

May Feature Act: Elena Yeung and Karl Sommerfeld

Tuesday, May 29th, 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.

Elena's songwriting is inspired by timeless and universal themes of day-to-day life. Originally from Carberry, Manitoba, she is a well traveled young lady who now resides in Creston, BC. Her songs are punctuated with a driving banjo roll, and the music often has elements of folk, old-time, and country. She is joined by Karl on fiddle and harmony vocals, and the twosome provides some fiery fiddle/banjo chemistry. They have been playing together since 2009, and Karl is featured on Elena's newest CD, "Dandelion".

VBA Annual General Meeting and Members Open Stage Night

Tuesday, June 05th, 2012, Orange Hall, 1620 Fernwood Road, Victoria, BC

Please arrive early: the meeting starts at 7:30pm sharp.

AGM Draft Agenda

Dear VBA Member,

The AGM is your opportunity to get involved, to give us input on what type of activities you would like to see the VBA organize, and to make suggestions on how to improve on anything we are doing at the present time. If any member has "Other Business" they wish to raise at the AGM, please submit it in writing to any current Executive board member (President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer), or call 250-642-3395 (Al Planiden).

Only paid up 2012/2013 members can voice an opinion and vote at the meeting. Since this is also our All Open Stage Night, don't forget to bring your instruments. One song per performance please.

1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Approval of the Previous Minutes
 5. Reports:
 - President's Report
 - Treasurer's Report
 6. Other Business
 7. Board Elections
 8. Adjournment
- Short Break with Cake for Everyone -
- *Music, Music, Music - Open Stage*

Workshop: Beginning Swing Rhythm Guitar, with Paul Washington

Saturday, May 12th, 2:00pm to 4:00pm, Location TBA
\$25 General, \$20 VBA Members

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

For those who want to get started in the exciting world of Swing Guitar. It's easy when you know how! You will learn the essential, moveable chord forms used in swing, the string-damping technique used in the chording hand, and what to do with your strumming hand and arm. We start with simple songs. We build up to understanding the typical chord progressions used in western swing, early jazz, and the "standards" - Broadway show tunes, etc. If you like to sing, so much the better. The workshop is for those already comfortable playing "regular chords" used in bluegrass.

