

VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

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

Message

From the VBA Board

Happy New Year! We hope everybody had a wonderful holiday season! We have already reached the mid-way point of our feature act season and are looking forward to the next few months of music, music, music!! And to start off the year in style we already have a great show lined up for this week. If you haven't reserved a ticket for the Foghorn Trio with Anne Louise Genest, you only have a few days left! Call Kelly



"Washington, Andrews & Klassen"

It's this Friday, January 8!

Also this month we have our feature act Washington, Andrews & Klassen on January 26th. As always the evening will be started off with our famous open mic set. We're currently working on booking a few more 'Special Concerts' for the upcoming months - from both Canada and the U.S - so check these pages and keep your ears open at the VBA events for news on these shows.

Well, the deadline has passed to apply for the British Columbia Bluegrass Workshop bursary and now comes the hard part. The VBA has received a few applications and will have a decision made by the end of January as to who will be the 2010 recipient. Thank you to all the applicants, and to everybody who has helped promote this annual award.

The Annual Holiday Potluck & Band Scramble was a huge success. We had 6 bands formed for the band scramble, one-upping last years 5, and almost everyone participated. Those who

didn't participate made sure they had front row seats to cheer on the bands! There was a delicious array of snacks and treats provided by our members, including a delightful sweet n' spicy punch. Thanks go out to Marlene and Art Bertrand who were kind enough to take all the leftover food, goods and cash donations to the Mustard Seed Food Bank! We filled Art's truck (another annual event) at the end of the night with all the goods. Thank you to everyone who participated in donations this year. We raised \$309.72 to the Mustard Seed!!

If you want to mention anything particular in next month's newsletter all contributions and notices of bluegrass and related acoustic music events should be sent to Scott Campbell [by January 15.](mailto:scott@vba.org) See you at the VBA and remember..... Keep on the Sunny Side!

~VBA Board of Directors

Contents

- Message from the Board
- VBA upcoming events
- January Shows
- Annual Holiday Potluck & Band Scramble 2009
- Musicians Helping Musicians
- Bluegrass Happenings



Victoria Bluegrass Association
c/o Old Town Strings Repair Shop
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VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

UPCOMING EVENTS

VBA Board of Directors 2009/2010

President

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

January 5, 12, 19 @ 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 dollars for non-members, listeners by donation. Contact: Kelly Sherwin [_____](#)

Open Stage Feature Night

Tuesday, January 26 @ 7:30, 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 – 10:30 pm – Feature Act: Washington, Andrews & Klassen

Washington, Andrews & Klassen

This freshly minted Island group came together out of a shared love for the sounds of western swing, vintage jazz, cowboy songs and authentic country music.

On rhythm guitar is the smooth crooning Paul Washington, an alumnus of local roots/country bands like Blue Lasso and the Lonesome Hound Dogs. The ubiquitous Dave Klassen is well-known for holding down the rock-solid bottom end for such fine acts as Four Chords of Wood and Rig-A-Jig, as well as for teaching VBA workshops on bluegrass bass. On lead guitar is the inimitable Andy Ruszel. His original songs have been featured on the CBC and performed by artists like Charlotte Diamond and The Rovers. His two CDs with Andrews & Lawrence were rated as the best old-time gospel recordings in Canada.

Be prepared for an evening of great classic tunes -- you will even be forgiven if you are moved to dance in the aisles!

Reminder! The Foghorn Trio with Anne Louise Genest

Friday January 8 @ 8 pm at the Orange Hall

Members \$10, Non-members \$12

Tickets available at VBA events and at the door. Call or email Kelly Sherwin for ticket reservations [_____](#)

Two Shows with The Haints (more details on page 4)

Friday January 22 @ 8 pm at the Orange Hall,

Admission at the door, sliding scale of \$10-\$15.

To reserve e-mail pharis [_____](#)

Friday January 21 on Gabriola with

The Fiddlesniffers opening. 7 pm at the Roxy.

Tickets are \$15, available at Artworks.



Annual Holiday Potluck and Band Scramble



Half-Lit Stage Hands



Cheeks and Hair



Chimney Sweepers



Rhonda and the X-Mas Rockets

Musicians Helping Musicians

In the Oct 2009 issue of the VBA Newsletter, we mentioned Doug VanDine's great idea of collecting used strings and distributing them to musicians in other parts of the world where strings may be hard to come by. The following is a letter Doug received from Bonnie Stenstrom who kindly took some used strings to the South Pacific this past fall.

Just wanted to let you know the fate of the used strings that went to French Polynesia. The first packet went to three local musicians who were playing where we were staying in Papeete. The lead musician was on a guitar backed-up by a ukulele and a local ukulele (4 courses of strings) played by a woman and man. They were heartily surprised when I made the offer to them of the free strings and utterly delighted and appreciative. I carried the other package for the entire trip, to all the other islands, but there didn't seem to be anyone to give them to. Upon our return to Papeete, I gave the remaining strings to a teacher at the local music conservatory. He said it was the best Christmas present he could possibly have received!

It felt really good to see how happy these gifts made all the recipients. Thanks again for this opportunity to give away something we typically throw away without a thought.

-Doug

If anyone else is travelling this winter and wants to have a similar positive experience, contact Doug _____

He says he's got lots of used strings left to be delivered. (He left many sets of strings with a school music teacher in a small village of Peru when he went there in the fall).

Bluegrass Happenings: In British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest

Ongoing

- Sundays** **James Whittall & The Pickits** at **Swan's Brew Pub**, 506 Pandora St., 8:30-11:30 pm.
- 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 jam at the Bent Mast is no longer happening.
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- 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. More info: Jim
- Fridays** **Victoria Fiddle Society** Monthly Jam, 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

Two Shows With The Haints

- Jan 22** 8 pm at the Orange Hall, admission at the door is a sliding scale of \$10-\$15. _____
- Celebrate Erynn Marshall's return to Victoria for a one-night only show at the Orange Hall with the Haints Old Time Stringband! Take part in an evening of southeastern US traditional music - fiddle, banjo, guitar and mandolin - with rollicking fiddle-banjo tunes, silver dagger ballads, 1920s stringband tunes and more. From tender duets to the boisterous call and response songs of early stringbands, each of the band members sings. And don't miss their very special guest, Carl Jones, celebrated Virginia-based songwriter and musician, joining them for the evening on mandolin and vocals. The Haints' debut album Shout Monah, has been noted as a Banjo Newsletter "don't miss" album, winner of the Porcupine Award for Old Time Music in Canada, and nominated for two Canadian Folk Music Awards (Traditional Album of the Year, Ensemble of the Year). To listen and find out more go to www.thehaints.com.
- Jan 21** Gabriola with The Fiddlesniffers opening. The Fiddlesniffers (Victor Anthony and Alison Humphries) play "hillbilly chamber music" which is traditional fiddle tunes arranged for two acoustic guitars, one fingerpicked and the other flatpicked. At the Roxy, doors at 7pm. Tickets are \$15, available at Artworks.