

# VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

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

## Message from the VBA Board

*"Everything is beautiful....  
in it's own way,  
But it can start to warm up now...  
any old day "*

A little bit cool and rainy this past while, but things should turn around soon, and before you know it, we'll be laughing at how funny banjo players look in summer shorts!



### Four Chords of Wood April Feature Act

Wow, have we ever had a lot of great entertainment this past while. The evening with last month's feature act, "Bryon Clayton Thomas" seemed to whiz by all too quickly, and that was followed shortly afterward by great performances by the "Canotes", and then the "Foggy Hogtown Boys."

And it's not letting up any folks! For this month's feature act, we've got the dynamic, hard driving sound of "Four Chords of Wood". Pedal to the metal bluegrass that you surely don't want to miss.

There are also two more workshops lined up this month. On April 14<sup>th</sup>, Mike Brooks will be going over "Arranging Bluegrass Music For Performance", and then on the 28<sup>th</sup>, Aaron Murray will be teaching "The Blue Side of Bluegrass Mandolin". As always, check out the VBA website for all the latest information on these workshops, the upcoming acts, and everything else happening on the local bluegrass scene.

If that VBA membership card you have shows an expiry of last March, well you know what that means, and it's time to get a fresh one. If you're not a member yet, do consider joining. In addition to reduced admission prices for special concerts, jam and feature nights, workshops, and merchandise, you are directly supporting and promoting great bluegrass and acoustic music in the Greater Victoria area. The April feature night on the 24<sup>th</sup> is a good one to attend and join up if you haven't already. We'll be drawing a paid up member's name that evening, and someone will get their membership fee refunded.

The popular theme jams continue this month on Tuesday, the 17<sup>th</sup>, with "Gospel Songs." Our host, the revered (or is that reverend?), Cluny Macpherson, will be showing us the way through this powerful aspect of bluegrass music. Whether participating or just listening, people have really been enjoying attending these sessions.

With all the musical offerings of late, the VBA is looking for additional venues to hold workshops and house concerts. If you are interested, and can accommodate a workshop (up to 15-20 people), or a concert (up to about 40 people) at your home, please get in touch with Alan Law at [bookings@victoriabluegrass.ca](mailto:bookings@victoriabluegrass.ca). The VBA takes care of all the logistics (chairs, tickets, refreshments, etc), and you as the host get free attendance.

A big 'Thank You' to all the hard working VBA Directors and volunteers for everything you do. You're the best!

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

## Board of Directors 2011/2012

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### VBA Membership

\$ 25 single

\$ 40 couple

For more information

[www.victoriabluegrass.ca](http://www.victoriabluegrass.ca)



Victoria Bluegrass Association  
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# VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION EVENTS

Complete Events Listing at: [www.victoriabluegrass.ca](http://www.victoriabluegrass.ca) or [www.facebook.com/victoria.bluegrass](http://www.facebook.com/victoria.bluegrass)

## 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](mailto:president@victoriabluegrass.ca)

### Theme Jam: "Gospel Songs" Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:45pm

No matter what your spiritual leaning, there is no denying that gospel songs are a wonderful and powerful force in bluegrass music. For the fourth 'theme jam' of the season, our host **Cluny Macpherson** will be guiding us to the light. Come just as you are, to walk that golden road into the safety of the everlasting arms.

These jams are like any other - you are welcome to join the inner circle - but need to bring along a song to share. 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.

## April Feature Act: Four Chords of Wood

**Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 the 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](mailto:vicbluegrass@yahoo.ca). Open Stage performers are exempt from the admission fee.

These boys lay down hard-driving traditional Bluegrass, from gospel to foot-to-the floor ravers, original compositions, and timeless classics. Their authentic sound is brought to life by first-class arrangements; soul inspired lead vocals, and experienced heartfelt harmony. This band puts on a show. Beneath the sartorial splendour of the white Stetons, they weave round a single microphone to deliver tight harmonies and superb instrument solos in a captivating performance with a truly unique retro phonic twist.

**Phil Shaver** from Erin, Ontario fronts the act with his solid rhythm guitar and classic bluegrass voice in the key of high lonesome. **Aaron Murray** out of Moncton, New Brunswick adds a traditional bluesy Monroe-style mandolin and solid tenor voice. Together, they work on the songwriting. **Dave Klassen** out of Vancouver anchors the band morally and musically with his straightforward upright bass. Our West Coast local top guns, Mike Kraft and Adrian Dolan, will cover banjo and fiddle.

If you are a lover of bluegrass, expect to be entertained with this must see combo!

## Workshops:

**To register: Alan Law, 250-388-4520 or email [workshops@victoriabluegrass.ca](mailto:workshops@victoriabluegrass.ca). Space is limited.**

**Register early to avoid disappointment.**

### **Mike Brooks – Arranging Bluegrass Music For Performance, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 2:00pm to 4:00pm**

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

What does it mean to “arrange” a tune? Depending on the type of music and the situation, it can mean many things. In blues-based forms such as bluegrass, it’s usually a matter of working with a fairly simple verse/chorus structure. Yet within that limitation there are many possibilities for presenting a song or tune that show signs of having had some thought put into it. Singing, rhythm, solos, etc., are all important and once those elements are in place, you have a cake. Arranging is the icing on the cake and that’s what this workshop will cover. There will be some talking, some listening, time for questions and finally, a live demonstration where we’ll arrange a song on the spot.



### **Aaron Murray – The Blue Side of Bluegrass Mandolin, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 2:00pm to 4:00pm**

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

We will have an interactive ‘look and listen’ to our favourite genre’s darker and mournful qualities. We will get comfortable tapping into this emotional style of playing by exploring a little bit of history, a little bit of theory, and a whole lot of jamming. Aaron will have some handouts, but bring a recorder if you wish.

