

VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

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

Message from the VBA Board

"30 days, hath September
April, June, and November
The other months have 31
Except for February, the special one"

And this year, it's even more special, with this being a leap year. Now all those folks with a birthday on the 29th finally get to celebrate after another long lay off!

Well, hasn't the start of February been a nice surprise weather-wise so far? After that cold spell last month, it's been looking a lot like spring all of a sudden. Makes you want to go outside in the sun and give those song birds some competition. We probably shouldn't give up on the winter blues just yet, but the longer days are surely coming.

If last months feature performance by the angelic voices of the Sirens got you believing in the power of heavenly harmonies, then get ready for the soulful sound of the Riverside Trio. This energetic gospel group will be gracing the stage this month, and are sure to move you!

February is the start of our membership drive for 2012-13. Start or renew your membership anytime now, and your good to March of 2013. Not only does your membership support the VBA and all of its activities, but remember all the benefits that come with it, including reduced admission for performances, for workshops, and for VBA merchandise.

There's so many good things happening at the VBA, thanks to a lot of hard work by a number of individuals. If you haven't been on our website lately, you MUST check it out. It's completely revamped, and is truly your 'go to' site for the latest information on the VBA and its activities, and the bluegrass scene in general. Our newsletter comes out once a month, but the website gets updated constantly as needed, and you'll find a whole lot more information there too. Want to know about jamming etiquette, the Nashville numbering system and bluegrass chord changes, see an archive of jam tune lists? It's all there....including the digital version of this newsletter.

The theme jams that have begun at the hall are proving to be very popular and the next one on Valentines Day will be a killer! And if you haven't noticed, our workshop offerings are more plentiful than ever, and there's something of interest to everyone. Be sure to check out the upcoming ones, and sign up early. The instructors are top notch, and have all been selected for their expertise in the topic areas.

We will be announcing the winner of this years Young Musician Bursary shortly. For those of you that may be interested in the British Columbia Bluegrass Workshop that takes place annually in Sorrento, please go the <http://www.musicworkshops.ca/> and check out the details. There are some exciting changes at the workshop this year, and it will be great as always.

See you other there, and remember.....Keep on the Sunny Side!



Riverside Trio
February 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 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: Valentines Day Massacre. Tuesday Feb 14th at 7:45

The VBA has introduced Theme Jams to supplement the regular jams at the hall. For the second one of the season, and right on Valentines Day to boot, we're exploring the dark side of love....nothing like a ballad about malicious death to stir the soul of a bluegrass fan. Cluny Macpherson and Chris Herbst will host this 'romantic' evening of songs about jealousy, deceit, murder, mayhem and madness. Bring along your main squeeze and a bloody weapon, er, song.

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

February Feature Act: Riverside Trio

Tuesday, Feb 28th, 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.

The Riverside Trio is a high energy and entertaining gospel group with a soulful sound inspired by faith and bluegrass gospel traditions. **Angus MacKenzie** (guitar) and **Eric Adams** (bass) have been hammering out bluegrass music together for the past decade, and with the addition of **Paul Lange** (mandolin), the harmonies are even sweeter. They bring it home everywhere they perform, to the delight of audiences of all ages. You will love 'em!

Workshops:

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

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!



Ali Romanow: Vocal Workshop Sat., Feb. 25th, 2012, 2:00am

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

Singing is the bedrock of bluegrass music, and everyone possesses the required instrument.

But like any other instrument, the voice needs care and practice to be at its best.

We'll study proper breathing techniques, how to safely expand your vocal range, and how to keep good vocal hygiene. Included will be basic lead and harmony singing.

The workshop will be an interactive and supportive group class for all levels and abilities. No experience necessary.

