

VICTORIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

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

Message from the VBA Board

*"The Indian Plum is abloom in the woods
Soon the bulbs will display all their goods
Spring has arrived, and the robins abound
The air is abuzz with a joyful sound"*

Well, another winter has come and gone, and it's time to get the golf clubs out, the garden tools sharpened up, and the outside of the windows cleaned!

Yes the seasons seem to go by quickly and before long it will be festival time and warm evenings again. It's hard to believe we only have another couple of months to go before our booking committee takes a break in June over the summer, but we've got some great entertainment and workshops lined up for you before then.

For this month's feature act, the VBA is welcoming back after a long hiatus, those smiley Cowichan Valley favourites - "Bryon Clayton Thomas". Get set for an evening of good humour, and music drawing from many styles. And then on the 30th, we've got a real Special Concert for you with the Canotes from the USA - guaranteed to have you sliced, diced, and spit out happy! We had a very well attended bluegrass fiddle workshop early in March, and two others are coming up later this month. Do go to our website for all the latest information on these workshops, upcoming acts, and everything on the local bluegrass scene.

A reminder that VBA Memberships expire at the end of this month, so plan on signing up for the first time, or remaining a member in good standing for the 2012-2013 season. Your membership dues support all of the activities of the VBA and give you a break on admission prices for performances and workshops. As always, we'll be drawing a paid up member's name at the April feature night, and someone will be lucky enough to get their dues refunded back - how's that for an incentive to join up early?

Speaking of supporting VBA activities, we are very happy to announce that this year our Association is granting not one, but three Young Musician Bursaries to young people wanting to attend the annual Bluegrass Workshop in Sorrento (just recently renamed "Nimblefingers and Old-Time Music Workshop"). Congratulations to Rachel Bergen, Ali Romanow, and Lisa Feeney, our very worthy recipients this year. Were sure you will be seeing much more of these talented ladies on the bluegrass scene in future.

If you haven't attended one of the theme jams at the hall yet, you're missing out on a lot of fun. The last one for 'Valentine's Day Massacre' brought out the dark side of what we thought were some pretty meek and mild folks! The next one is coming up on the first day of Spring and will be on 'Spring Break-Up, Spring Make-Up'. Our hosts will be guiding us through the confounding seas of broken hearts and rekindled love. You've probably got a song in mind right now, so plan on taking part.

Just another reminder too that if you are interested in the Sorrento Bluegrass Workshop, check out <http://www.nimblefingers.ca/> for all the details. Registration opens on March 14th at 9:00am!

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



Bryon Clayton Thomas
March 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: "Spring Break-Up, Spring Make-Up" Tuesday March 20th at 7:45

For the third 'theme jam' of the season, and right on the first day of Spring, our hosts Colleen O'Brien and Elizabeth Bergen, will guide us through the confounding seas of broken hearts and rekindled love. 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.

March Feature Act: Bryon Clayton Thomas

Tuesday, March 26th, 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.

This trio from the Cowichan Valley have been harmonizing together for over a decade. **Bryon Thompson, Clayton Long and Tom Horsfal** share music gathered from many styles across folk and bluegrass traditions. Something serious, something new, always, engaging, always entertaining, they'll share their songs and a laugh or two. We welcome them back after a long absence at the VBA.

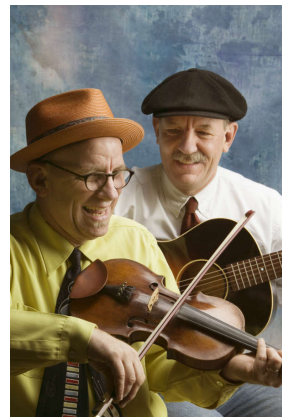
Friday, March 30th - 8:00 pm at the Orange Hall, 1620 Fernwood Rd. Special Concert: The Canotes

Hearing single, seeing double! With fiddle, banjo, ukuleles and genetically matched voices, identical twins **Greg and Jere Canote** bring back fun, vintage American music - including forgotten fiddle tunes, swing classics and quirky novelty songs. National Public Radio fans may remember them as the affable side-kicks on Sandy Bradley's Potluck for 13 years.

You just gotta seem them, she's a-gonna be a hum-dinger!

Doors open: 7:30 pm

Tickets: \$20 general, \$15 for VBA members, sold at any VBA event or tickets@victoriabluegrass.ca



Workshops:

To register: Alan Law, 250.388-4520 or email workshops@victoriabluegrass.ca. Space is limited.

Register early to avoid disappointment.

Doug Van Dine: Introduction to Banjo Backup - Saturday, March 24th, 2012, 2:00pm to 4:00pm

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

In a bluegrass band or jam setting, being able to play banjo in an accompanying or backup role is extremely important. In this 2 hour workshop, Doug Van Dine will present his 12 step program for relatively simple, yet effective 5 String Bluegrass Banjo Back-Up. Although geared to intermediate players, less advanced players will benefit from attending and taking home the handouts. Space is limited.



The Canotes: Contra dance - Saturday, March 31st, 2012, 7:30pm St. Matthias Church Hall

The Canotes will be in town all weekend following their performance at the Orange Hall Friday night. During the day on Saturday, they will be leading some fiddle, guitar and ukulele workshops at Larsen Music School.

Check their site for details. The third part of the Canote Brothers Trilogy is a contra dance with music by these two great foot-lifters. All dances are taught on the spot, no experience necessary. For all ages. Presented by Victoria Contra Dance

Introductory session at 7:00pm, Admission: \$8 General

More info: 250-384-7823 or email info@VictoriaContraDance.com