

# GET THE BEAT

NOV / DEC 2019

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**FOM MUSIC SOCIETY**  
 or Sunday Open Jam @ Friends of Music

## How did "Friends of Music Society" start, you ask?

*written by founding member, Ken Beattie October 21, 2019*

I first got involved with this organization before it was founded as the "Friends of Music Society", in 1989. A year or so prior to us becoming a non-profit, I received a phone call from a stranger. It went something like this; "My name is John Farry. I work in Mental Health, and I would like to start a band featuring the talent of musicians suffering from mental illness. I heard that you play your accordion at Group Homes, and I'm hoping we could meet, and that you could give me some ideas." I was happy to do this, and after a couple of meetings, he wondered if I had a name for the band. I told him that I had a book on depression, entitled "Moodswing", and that since ballads in the 50's were called "Mood Music" and that the 40's was called the "Swing Era", the Band could be called "Moodswing". He loved the idea, and the rest is history. John's background in Mental Health had been in the upper echelon of the BC Government, where he was responsible for setting standards across the province, so his connections were invaluable. Being a multi-tasker he had time to envision what has become F.O.M. When I heard him make phone calls, he stated 3 things; 1) who he was, 2) what he wanted and, 3) how he could go about getting it. In other words, he moved fast. Then he would write grant proposals, and if turned down, he would just write another one, until

## CHRISTMAS DINNER

**Earlier than ever: DOORS at  
 da Vinci Centre 195 Bay  
 Street OPEN at 4:15 PM**

**MUSIC STARTS at 4:30 PM**

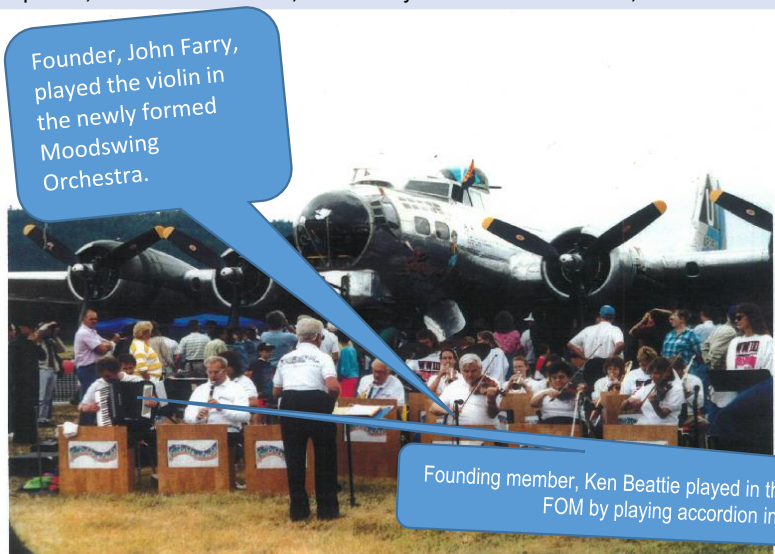
**TURKEY DINNER 5:30 PM**

**DANCING to CHRISTMAS**

**Favourites R 'n' B Style**

**RSVP to FOM [info@friendsofmusic.ca](mailto:info@friendsofmusic.ca)**

In the early days, the theatre where we meet, was mainly used for medical lectures. John invited me to bring my accordion. I would play "Beer Barrel Polka" and the "Tarantella . . ." The professionals around the building would peer in occasionally with smiles on their faces. John's first action plan was to hold a public forum at the Begbie Hall at R.J.H., inviting a prominent psychiatrist to speak. After the lecture, he pitched his idea for the Orchestra to upwards of 70 people. As momentum gathered, "Moodswing" was formed and our first public performance was at an event called "Tables of Eight", held at the UVic Faculty Club. John had Psychiatrists and other professionals sponsoring it, to pay for food, etc. The highlight for me in the early years, was a beautiful day at the Nanaimo Airport. Moodswing performed in front of a long retired B-17 airplane, that was on a North American tour. The Orchestra's music set the tone for the event. Being an avid aviation enthusiast, I was thrilled to meet some of the pilots who were decorated for their flying ability. When we got back to Victoria, we had a BBQ at the former Band leader's home. Other memorable occasions were our trip to Vancouver, staying at a Best Western Hotel, playing at BC Place, as well as the tea Dances at the Empress Hotel. Also there were several fun performances, at the then, Eaton's Center. Along the way John and I became great friends, until his passing, some years ago. I have watched the organization, grow into something we can all be proud of. I would like to thank everyone who has helped us, but most of all, I would have wanted to thank John Farry for believing in people, no matter what their challenges were, when he said, "I like to focus on what's right with people, rather than what's



Founding member, Ken Beattie played in the Moodswing Orchestra when it was founded. 30 years later, he is still contributing to FOM by playing accordion in our ever popular Eclectics. Thank you, Ken, for this article on our past.

# Friends of Music Society Calendar of Events

## November 2019

All Thursday Community Concerts start at 6:30 pm (Doors open at 6pm - Coffee served at 6pm!)

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
					1 Haywires 2-4 Audition for R&B Band Minds at Work 4-6pm	2
3 Rock Band 2 - 4 pm Guitar 4:30-5:30pm Open Mic 6-8 pm	4 7:00 PM Board Meeting	5 Jazz Improv 11-12 Learn Ukulele 4-5 Ukulelians 5:00-6:30 pm Chorus 7-9 pm	6 Each One Teach One 10am Beginner Band 11-11:55 Skills Band 12-12:55 Fundamentals 1 - 3PM Eclectics 3:30-5:30 pm	7 Community Concert Haywires Country Band EMP 6:30-7:15 pm Moodswing Orchestra Rehearsal 7:30-9:30 PM	8 Haywires 2-4 Minds at Work 4-6pm	9
10 No Music Programs on Long Weekends	11 office closed Remembrance Day	12 Jazz Improv 11-12 Learn Ukulele 4-5 Ukulelians 5:00-6:30 pm Chorus 7-9 pm	13 Each One Teach One 10am Beginner Band 11-11:55 Skills Band 12-12:55 Fundamentals 1-3pm Eclectics 3:30-5:30 pm	14 Community Concert with the Eclectics EMP 6:30 - 7:15 PM Moodswing Orchestra Rehearsal 7:30-9:30 PM	15 Haywires 2-4 Minds at Work 4-6pm	16
17 Rock Band 2 - 4 pm Guitar 4:30-5:30pm Open Mic 6-8 pm	18	19 Jazz Improv 11-12 Learn Ukulele 4-5 Ukulelians 5:00-6:30 pm Chorus Rehearsal 7-9 pm	20 12-12:30 Skills Band Performs in the RJH Atrium during 'Nursing Student Bake Sale' Fundamentals 1-3pm Eclectics 3:30-5:30 pm	21 Community Concert with the Ukulelians EMP 6:30-7:15 pm Moodswing Orchestra Rehearsal 7:30-9:30 PM	22 Haywires 2-4 Minds at Work 4-6pm	23
24 Rock Band Guitar Open Mic	25 Chorus Singing EMP Atrium	26 Jazz Improv 11-12 Learn Ukulele 4-5 Ukulelians 5:00-6:30 pm Chorus Rehearsal 7-9 pm	27 Each One Teach One 10am Beginner Band 11-11:55 Skills Band 12-12:55 Fundamentals 1-3pm Eclectics 3:30-5:30 pm	28 Community Concert with Moodswing Chorus EMP 6:30-7:15 pm Moodswing Orchestra Rehearsal 7:30-9:30 PM	29 2019 Psychosis Conf Ukulelians Performing FOM info booth Haywires 2-4 Minds at Work 4-6pm	30

## December 2019

1 Rock Band 2 - 4 pm Guitar 4:30-5:30pm Open Mic 6-8 pm	2 Chorus Sandringham 7:00 PM Board Meeting	3 Jazz Improv 11-12 Learn Ukulele 4-5 Ukulelians 5:00-6:30 pm Chorus 7-9 pm	4 Each One Teach One 10am Beginner Band 11-11:55 Skills Band 12-12:55 Fundamentals 1-3pm Eclectics 3:30-5:30 pm	5 Community Concert Moodswing Orchestra EMP 6:30-7:15 pm Moodswing Orchestra Rehearsal 7:30-9:30 PM	6 Catch the Haywires Performing 2-2:45 at the RJH Atrium during the Craft Fair Minds at Work 4-6pm	7
8 Rock Band 2 - 4 pm Guitar 4:30-5:30pm Open Mic 6-8 pm	9	10 Jazz Improv 11-12 Learn Ukulele 4-5 Ukulelians 5:00-6:30 pm Chorus 7-9 pm	11 Each One Teach One 10am Beginner Band 11-11:55 Skills Band 12-12:55 Fundamentals 1-3pm Eclectics 3:30-5:30 pm	12 FOM Performances join in the fun Christmas Dinner at da Vinci Centre Doors open at 4:15 RSVP 250-592-5114	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Chorus Performs at 2pm at Trillium Highgate Lodge	20	21
22	23	24	25 Season	26	27	28
29	30	31	1 Happy New Year	2 Ukulelians Perform at Trillium Highgate at 2pm	FOM Music Society music programs will begin in the New Year in the week of January 6th, 2020. The next newsletter will be available at <a href="http://www.friendsofmusic.ca/newsletters/">www.friendsofmusic.ca/newsletters/</a>	