

Vancouver Folk Music Festival Society Board Nominee Biographies 2018

Derek Bird

A dedicated woodturner and sailor, I am a passionate music lover and the more live the better. I was fortunate to spend 30 years bringing new and established artists and their music to audiences on CBC Radio and Television. Now as a Music and Event Producer, Broadcaster and Engineer, I work on festivals and other non-profit projects in my communities: Island Music Fest, Islands Folk Fest, Mission Folk Fest. I have been active to various degrees in the promotion, governance and/or operations of many BC festivals and I will bring my time, experience and enthusiasm to help develop plans going forward and get things done at VFMF.

Karen Cooper

I have been attending the festival for the past 7 years and I look forward to it more than any other annual event. My work and educational background have been various, including computer systems designer, teaching undergraduates at a small college, and doing research into the impacts of lack of food and provision of meals in the DTES. I think that my experience running a small non-profit foundation is particularly relevant, as it has given me an understanding of many aspects of fundraising, budgets, and the stresses which land on the leaders of non-profits. I have been a board member of the International Scholars Foundation, US YoungArts Foundation Board and the chair of the CKNW Orphans' Fund Board. I am eager for a chance to give my energy and attention to something I personally love, and which helps make Vancouver so uniquely itself.

Monica Dare

Monica is running for a second term on the Board of Directors because she has a passion for the Festival, having served as a volunteer for many years and for the last three years on the Board, first on the Governance Committee and currently as Treasurer. In addition to attending and actively supporting the Festival she is also a dedicated community member serving on the Boards and Executives on a number of not-for-profit organizations and Societies, which has given her a good understanding of the operations of this unique type of organization. She has enjoyed her time on the Board and looks forward to continuing to make valuable contributions to the Vancouver Folk Music Society and Festival.

Bill Hooker

Bill has been a folk music fan since the early 1960s and an active volunteer at the Vancouver Folk Music Festival since 1989, and has now served on the Board of the Society for 10 years. Bill is looking forward to another term and continuing work on the Governance Committee with the immediate goal of creating a comprehensive fiscal management policy, which has been lacking since the founding of the Society. As a former lawyer and teacher, Bill hopes to review all of our necessary policies to help to ensure the continuing life of this marvelous enterprise as we look forward to another 40 years.

Kathleen Nisbet

Kathleen has served on the board since 2016, as the Recording Secretary. She is a fiddle player and singer from Vancouver, BC Canada. Classically trained at the Vancouver Academy of Music, Kathleen returned to her métis roots, pursuing more traditional fiddle music. Since then she has worked with artists in a variety of genres. A collaborator and regular accompanist with Compaigni v'ni dansi Metis traditional dance, she also has composed music for independent modern dance. She has toured and performed regularly with Petunia & The Vipers, The Fugitives, CR Avery and Rich Hope. Kathleen also teaches at Saint James Academy and will be producing the popular East Van Opry for the sixth year this coming fall 2018.

James Shearer

2018 will mark my fourth year volunteering at the Vancouver Folk Music Festival. I have eight years of volunteer leadership experience with St John Ambulance as Superintendent for Vancouver. I was responsible for leading 100 medical volunteers and financial management with tight budgetary limits of this registered charity. I have many years of executive board level experience through a variety of positions including International Chair for the American Society of Travel Agents, BC Council member for the Association of Canadian Travel Agencies. I bring 20 years of business leadership experience that included working closely with festivals, events, and charities from a business integration, marketing, and sponsorships perspective that I trust will be of benefit to the VFMF.