

Alaska Folk Festival, Inc.  
P.O. Box 21748  
Juneau, AK 99802

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Juneau, AK  
Permit # 194

## 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Folk Festival Guest Artists \* *Les Amis Creole*



**Cedric Watson**  
*fiddle*

**Ed Poullard**  
*accordion*

**James Adams**  
*guitar*

Get out your Mardi Gras beads and come enjoy the rich sounds of the Bayou country. Les Amis Creole, this year's Guest Artists, will bring the music of Southwest Louisiana to Juneau, Alaska. The four-member group will share the traditions of la-musique Creole and the younger sounds of Zydeco. Their tunes are energetic, rousing and infectious. After the first few measures of "la-la" music you will want to be up on your feet and dancing.

Louisiana has seen the blending of many cultures. The result of the amalgam of French, African, Spanish, and American Indian cultures is Creole. While Cajun and Creole music yield a subtle yet audible difference, both are steeped in their own cultures and musical nuances.

Les Amis Creole brings together two generations of musicians. Ed Poullard and James Adams enrich their playing with the first hand experience of past generations. Cedric Watson and Corey Ledet blend the enthusiasm of youth and a strong desire to keep their Creole roots alive through their music.

Ed Poullard, a talented fiddle, accordion, and percussion player started out as a teenager playing in his dad's band at house parties and parish dances. Along with his family ties to the Creole tradition Ed studied and toured with the late, legendary fiddle player Canray Fontenet. Starting out as an accordionist Ed played with the Ardoin Family Band, Beausoleil, and with his late brother Danny in an ensemble known as Poullard, Poullard and Garnier.

J.B. Adams is based in Houston, Texas and has put his acoustic guitar playing to work to preserve traditional Creole music. As a co-host of a popular Houston radio show, Zydeco Pas Sale, he has become a mentor to several young Creole musicians. His traditional roots and knowledge has done much to foster the continuation and revival of Creole music.

One young musician that James inspired was Cedric Watson. Cedric lives, breathes, and eats Cajun, Creole, and Zydeco music. He introduces fresh arrangements and original songs to the group. Cedric began playing music from the encouragement of his grandmother. Watson is quoted as saying, "From when I first heard it I've always loved the old Creole music from my heart. Some of those old songs like 'Jolie Bassette' just made me fall in love with the music." Cedric brings the tradition alive with skilled playing and French singing. Cedric is also a member of the Pine Leaf Boys.

Corey Ledet joins the group from time to time as both an accordionist and percussionist. In his early 20's, Corey is heralded as one of the youngest accordion players. Corey is a superb teacher who has traveled around the world teaching Creole and Zydeco music on the triple-row accordion. Corey plays in his own Zydeco band and joins Cedric on their newest release "Goin' Down to Louisiana." An excellent example of their roots and wings.

Blending old with new, this year's Guest Artists are sure to live up to the Alaska Folk Festival mission of bringing traditions alive.

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**Cedric Watson** *fiddle*

**Corey Ledet** *accordion*

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# Alaska Folk Festival Membership Form

34th Annual Alaska Folk Festival: April 7-13, 2008



<b>Amount \$ _____</b>	
___ Member	(\$15 - \$29)
___ Sustaining Member	(\$30 - \$49)
___ Friend	(\$50 - \$99)
___ Patron	(\$100 - \$249)
___ Benefactor	(\$250 and above)
<input type="checkbox"/> Please do not list my name in the program.	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Visa or Mastercard ONLY  
Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CSC (3 digit security code): \_\_\_\_\_  

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

All members receive the Festival newsletters. Benefactors, Patrons, Friends, and Sustaining Members will be listed in the Festival program (deadline: March 20, 2008). Please mail to: Alaska Folk Festival, PO Box 21748, Juneau, Alaska 99802. Thank You!

## AFF Board Members through AFF 34

AFF Board members are all volunteers who love the Alaska Folk Festival and are willing to serve a three-year term working on the board organizing the Festival. Here are the board members through the next Festival, with term expiration years shown.

- Linda Frame, President (exp '09)
- Greg McLaughlin, Vice President (exp '10)
- Jamie Brown, Treasurer (exp '08)
- Terry Hoskinson, Secretary (exp '09)
- Christine Hess (exp '08)
- Amy Randolph (exp '10)
- Scott Burton (exp '10)

Two seats on the board are up for election, this year. Since one or more of these people may not run for re-election it is your chance to get involved. If you want to help the AFF happen, this year and next, participate now and run for a board member seat in April.

**Musicians!**  
Are you looking for an appreciative audience? The Juneau Pioneers' Home has lots of great listeners who LOVE music and lots of opportunities to play. For more information or to schedule a time, please call Kathy at 780-6422, ext. 212.

## January 2008 Newsletter

Happy January Folks,

Here we go again! The poster art has arrived, Guest Artists secured, and performer and volunteer applications in the mail. While the routine to launch the 34th Annual Alaska Folk Festival is underway, that is where routine stops. Each year fosters new memories and t-shirts to add to your collection.

Remember back, two years ago, to the last time we used the Armory? The Armory always provided just the right venue for dances and workshops. Thanks to Juneau Arts and Humanities our dances will be there again. They have secured the building and with a major facelift have created the Juneau Arts and Cultural Center. What a perfect venue to dance, dance, dance to the Zydeco tunes of Les Amis Creole.

Once again there will be opportunities for you to participate and add memories to your Folk Fest bag. Workshops, main stage concerts for 7 nights and 2 days, those energetic contra dances at Coffee and Jam, Singer/Song Writer Showcase, and the list goes on for your involvement. There are many of you whose memories include countless volunteer hours! You are the folks who turn this routine into magic!

THANK YOU, for all of my happy memories and knowing I can look forward to seeing, dancing and working with so many of you again at AFF 34.

Rest up!  
Linda Frame  
Board President

# Upcoming Events!!!

## **Michael Smith to perform in Juneau February 11, 2008**

The talented and funny songwriter Michael Smith will perform in Juneau on Monday, Feb. 11, at Resurrection Lutheran Church.

Although wit and humor are hallmarks of Smith's songs, he's best known for "The Dutchman," his poignant portrayal of an old married couple that has been recorded by a dozen other singers including Steve Goodman and Liam Clancy. Among the many other artists who have recorded Smith's songs are Jimmy Buffett, Claudia Schmidt, Tom Russell, Jerry Jeff Walker, David Allen Coe, Tony Trishka, Gordon Bok and the band Trout Fishing in America.

Although he's known as a "Songwriter's songwriter," Smith is an engaging and entertaining performer and a versatile guitarist. He's recorded several live albums that capture his strong solo performances, as well as studio albums that showcase his guitar playing and musicianship with a band. He's worked as a professional musician since the 1960s, performing in a duo with his wife, with bands, and on his own. He's based in Chicago.

In the mid 1980s he was commissioned by the Steppenwolf Theater in Chicago to write music and perform in the play, 'The Grapes of Wrath.' The play went on to be an international success and the Broadway production won two Tony Awards. Smith has continued to compose and perform in musical theater, as well as record CDs of his original music.

"A lot of times songwriters aren't as good at performing their own songs as other people, but he is," said longtime fan Stewart Ely. "I learned 'The Dutchman' from Steve Goodman, and I thought he wrote it. Then Jeff Brown introduced me to Michael Smith's original version and his other songs, and I was hooked. His style covers so much, it's not just ballads and funny songs, there's rock and jazzy stuff. He's got a great range of songs."

Tickets will be \$15 and the Alaska Folk Festival is sponsoring the concert with help from Gold Street Music. For information call Riley Woodford at 463-3071.

## **Happening in Sitka March 14,15,16, 2008**

Its springtime and the first annual Sitka Arti Gras, Sitka's Music and Arts festival.

The organizers are soliciting artists and musicians interested in participating as performers or workshop organizers. Detailed information can be found at [www.artigras.info](http://www.artigras.info) or contact Vern Culp 907-738-6080

Philip Rupell 907-747 -5940

## **AFF Contact & Info Sources**

- Voice mail 907-463-3316
- Snail-Mail: AFF, PO Box 21748, Juneau AK 99802
- Web site: <http://www.akfolkfest.org>
- AFF listserv <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/aff-1/>

## **Visual Artists**

The due date for poster art is May 15th, 2008 for the 35th Annual Folk Festival, April 13 - 19, 2009. Send to the AFF PO box, or give to a board member.

## Thinking about performing at the 34th Alaska Folk Festival?

Check out the Folk Festival's web site to find a LOT of useful information.

<http://akfolkfest.org/faq.php>

This page features a lengthy FAQ containing answers for just about any performers query. Have a question? The answers are probably there, including questions you might not know enough to ask, especially if this is your first Alaska Folk Festival.

<http://akfolkfest.org/onstg.php>

This page gives a few On Stage Tips for performers, such as how to use microphones, making sure your guitar pickup and guitar cord is ready to be on stage, and more. (You might be surprised at how many people come on stage with bad guitar pickups and/or bad guitar cords.)

### Reminders:

- The deadline for submitting your performer application is 5 PM, Friday February 29th. It must be **IN OUR HANDS** then.
- Performance sets in Centennial Hall are 15 minutes **INCLUDING SET-UP**. If you have a long set up and/or talk a lot, you'll have less time for music. Think about set-up. How long will that take? Time your sets, including talking. The Performer FAQ explains why everyone has 15 minutes in some detail, but basically it is due to fairness to all the performers. Everyone is treated the same. Only the Guest Artist gets more than 15 minutes

We will aim to send out a Tentative Schedule to everyone who applies to perform not later than Friday, March 7th. That schedule is the only notification you'll receive. If your act is in the schedule, you're good to go. If you act is not there, then you are on Standby (also explained in the Performer FAQ in detail), waiting and hoping for a cancellation you can fill. How many people are pot on standby? Last year we had two dozen more acts applying to perform than we had performance spots.

## Alaska Folk Festival Membership

Is Your Mailing Label correct?

Please check your mailing label. Did we figure out your handwriting on the membership form and get your name spelled correctly?? Is the other information on the label correct? Give us a call if we goofed.

The EXPIRATION DATE, as it appears on the mailing label, is 12 months after your membership donation. If your mailing label says "Member for: 2008 AFF" you are a member in good standing for AFF34. We will list all Sustaining and higher members in the program, unless you ask us not to. If you have checked the "do not list" your name box on the membership form, you should see "dnl--" preceding the Membership Level on your mailing label.

If you are not a current AFF member, send in the form and \$15 or more and you'll be set for the next year.

### Why become an AFF member?

The Alaska Folk Festival is funded primarily by memberships (75% of the annual cost of putting on the Festival), individuals, families and businesses (some of whom also donate goods and services). The rest of the AFF's funding comes from sales of merchandise at the Membership table, donations and occasional fund raising concerts.

There are four ingredients that go into each Alaska Folk Festival: musicians (450-500), an audience (10,000+ for the week), volunteers (250+ ) and members (800+ households).

If you really want to enjoy the 34th Annual Alaska Folk Festival coming up this April, 2008, become a member (or renew) to help make it happen.

If you find a mistake on your mailing label, give me a call, or leave a message on the AFF voice mail, 463-3316.

Michael Sakarias 586-4422

Keper of the AFF database/mailling list