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**September 2015
Newsletter**

42nd Annual
Alaska Folk Festival
April 4-10, 2016

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE FALLTOBERFEST FUNDRAISER!

Last year was such a great time, we're doing it again! Join the Alaska Folk Festival and KRNN for a ticketed all-ages fall concert and folk music party on **October 2nd & 3rd at the Rockwell Ballroom**. Two whole evenings of live music, with tickets at \$20 for one night or \$30 for both, you won't want to miss out! Starting at 7pm on both nights:

Friday

**The Downtown Stringband
The Great Alaska Bluegrass Band
The Anna Lynch Band**

Saturday

**Goldwing
Rumblefish
Todd Grebe & Cold Country.**

Tickets will be available at all the usual places and please check back on the AFF website and facebook page for more information.

Miss out on last year's amazing festival merchandise? Come by our merchandise and membership table to stock up on Christmas presents!

We'll also be in need of volunteers for this event. If you're interested, please email us at info@akfolkfest.org. All volunteers get in free.

Featuring



Todd Grebe & Cold Country



The Anna Lynch Band

Alaska Folk Festival Membership Form

42nd Annual Alaska Folk Festival, April 4-10, 2016

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Amount: \$ _____ Visa/Mastercard ONLY

Exp. Date _____ 3 digit security code: _____

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Signature: _____

Amount \$ _____

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|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sustaining Member | (\$30—\$49) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Friend | (\$50—\$99) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Patron | (\$100—\$249) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Benefactor | (\$250+) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Member | (\$15—\$29) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-membership donation | any |

Please do not list my name in the program

All members receive AFF newsletters. Benefactors, Patrons, Friends, and Sustaining members will be listed in the Festival program (deadline: March 15). Please mail to: Alaska Folk Festival, PO Box 21748, Juneau, AK 99802.

Thank You!!

Lydia Mendoza, Guest Artist AFF 1979

Many folks remember that Merle Travis was our first guest artist but who remembers the unique guest artist for the fifth annual Alaska Folk Festival in 1979? She was known as the "Lark of the Border" and her appearance at the fifth festival broadened the spectrum of America's folk music for Alaskans.

Lydia Mendoza was a strong performer who asserted her ethnic heritage while in Juneau by only speaking and singing in Spanish. Born in Houston, Texas of Mexican immigrants and musically talented from an early age, she began singing as a child with her family band in 1928. They played restaurants, street corners and fiestas on both sides of the border, passing the hat for food money. Lydia won a singing



contest on the radio which led to her family signing a recording contract with Bluebird Records. They later became one of the first Tejano groups recorded by major American label.

Lydia is best remembered for her soulful voice accompanied only by her twelve-string guitar and she became a sensation in the 1940s and 1950s. As the "Singer of the Poor" and working class Americans, she has been compared to the Carter Family. During a 60 year career she recorded over 50 LPs and 200 songs.

As a recipient of both the National Heritage Award (National Endowment for the Arts, 1982) and the National Medal of the Arts (President Clinton, 1999) she is justifiably recognized as one of America's great roots music singers. In

PFD - A Great Time to Give

Alaskans are a generous bunch and the Alaska Folk Festival can not thank you enough for choosing to donate to our thriving musical community.

The festival is supported 100% by your contributions. When deciding how to use your PFD, we hope you'll consider upping your membership, or making a non-membership donation of any amount. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, your contribution is tax-deductible.

Amazon Smile is another small way to support the festival, when making your purchases on Amazon.com, shop using this address <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/92-0098258>, or search for us. Amazon will send us .5% of your purchase amount.

2007 she died at the age of 91. And in 2013 she was honored on the first US stamp issued in the Music Icon series, that has included Johnny Cash and Ray Charles. Lydia became the first Tehjana woman musician so honored.

AFF is proud to have had this remarkable woman, who carved her own musical path, as our guest artist and share her authentic form of music with us.