



PO Box 21748
Juneau, AK 99802-1748
www.akfolkfest.org

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December 2016
Newsletter

43rd Annual
Alaska Folk Festival
April 3-9, 2017

THE 43RD ANNUAL ALASKA FOLK FESTIVAL GUEST ARTIST

THE MURPHY BEDS

The Murphy Beds (Eamon O’Leary & Jefferson Hamer) present traditional and original folk songs, rooted in the style of the Irish folk revival, with close harmonies and deft instrumental arrangements on bouzouki, guitar, and mandolin. Prepare to fall in love with their intricate instrumentation and beautiful harmonies.

Eamon O’Leary started playing Irish music while growing up in Dublin through his friendship with the Mayock family, traditional musicians from County Mayo. When he moved to New York City in the early 90s he immersed himself in the city’s traditional music scene and became a well known session leader. Since then he has traveled extensively with a wide array of great Irish musicians and has taught at many traditional music programs throughout the United States.

Jefferson Hamer is a guitarist and singer based in Brooklyn, NY well-known for his work with songwriter Anais Mitchell on their album “Child Ballads” and his work with Great American Taxi. The two met in New York at one of O’Leary’s sessions and recognized their deep mutual love of traditional



songs from Ireland and the British Isles and the ways in which those songs translated to traditional American music. In addition to their mainstage performance, The Murphy Beds and friends will be playing a called dance at the JACC for this year’s festival.

Alaska Folk Festival Membership Form

43rd Annual Alaska Folk Festival, April 3-9, 2017

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Amount: \$ _____ Visa/Mastercard ONLY

Exp. Date _____ 3 digit security code: _____

CC #: _____

Signature: _____

Amount \$ _____

- ____ Member (\$15—\$29)
____ Sustaining Member (\$30—\$49)
____ Friend (\$50—\$99)
____ Patron (\$100—\$249)
____ Benefactor (\$250 and above)

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, 2017). Please mail to: Alaska Folk Festival, PO Box 21748, Juneau, AK 99802.

Thank You!!

Upcoming Contra Dance Schedule

All dances 7:30 - 11:00pm

St. Ann's Parish Hall

5th & Gold

Juneaucontras.org

<u>Date</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Caller</u>
12/31	Taku Gaels	Tom Paul
1/21	Impromptu	Susie Kendig
2/18	Full Circle	Odette Edgar
3/18	Rumblefish	Tom Paul

AFF Contact & Info Sources

Phone: 907-463-3316

Email: Info@AlaskaFolkFestival.org

Facebook: [facebook.com/AKFolkFest](https://www.facebook.com/AKFolkFest)

Twitter: @AK_FolkFest

Web Site: AKFolkFest.org

FallToberFest 2016



Thank you to all who came out to make our 3rd FallToberFest a success! Especially to: **The Rockwell** for donating the ballroom performance space; **The Prospector Hotel** for donating accommodations for the out-of-town bands; **Studio A** for excellent sound engineering; **Julia Garrity** (our newest board member!) for the amazing backdrop made of duct-tape; **Alicia Hughes-Skandijis & Annie Bartholomew** for emceeing; and for **all of the volunteers** who took tickets, sold merchandise, and spread good cheer.

Gold Street Music—Next Date: 1/7

Remember to mark your calendar for the first Saturday of each month for Gold Street Music. Resurrection Lutheran Church at 740 W. 10th St in downtown Juneau at 7:30pm. \$5 at the door. Check the AFF website for updates or for more information you may call Elva 500-4550 or Terry T 364-3398.

Guest Artists of Years Past

Where Are They Now?



Rhiannon Giddens—2007—AFF33

Rhiannon came with The Carolina Chocolate Drops, a black string band sharing historic and contemporary music. She plays banjo and oh, how she can sing! The CCD cd titled “Genuine Negro Jig” won the 2010 Grammy in the best traditional folk album category. Her performance at the Another Day, Another Time: Celebrating the Music of Inside Llewyn Davis concert was widely acclaimed (2013). This year she has become the first American to be honored as Folk Singer of the Year at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards and has won the Steve Martin Prize for Excellence in Banjo and Bluegrass. You can catch her performances on Austin City Limits, at the Country Music Awards, at the White House in 2015 (<http://www.pbs.org/video/2365506868/>) or on tour <http://rhiannongiddens.com/#shows>.



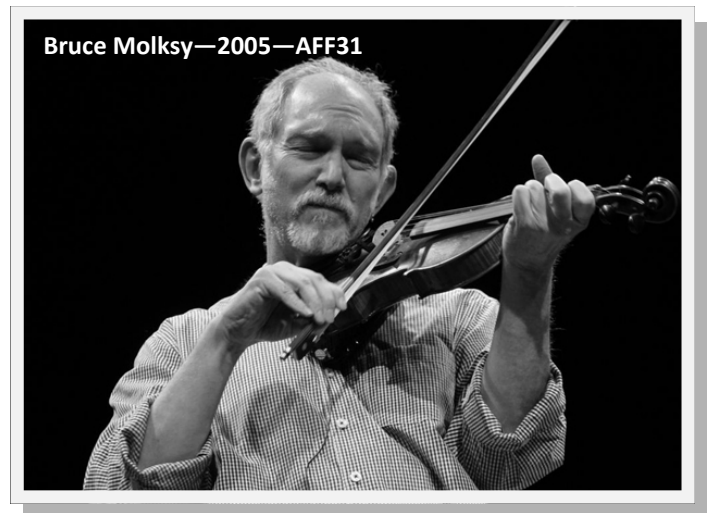
Michael Alpert—1996—AFF22

Michael led the klezmer band, Brave Old World. Their late night dance was marvelous. He continues to study, perform and teach. He was on the west coast of the US this summer, joining the faculty of Fiddle Tunes, in Port Townsend, Washington in early July, 2017. Michael was a 2015 NEA National Heritage Fellow.



Mac Traynham—1995—AFF21

Ginny Hawker, Kay Justice, Tracy Schwarz were joined by Mac. When Mac came to the Alaska Folk Festival, he told us this was the first time he’d flown. He must have liked it, because he travels to play now, (check out the posts on <http://macandjenny.blogspot.com/>). Mac and his wife Jenny sing wonderful duets. Their daughter Hanna has moved west and still plays old-timey, country music (in a trio called The Barn Owls). Visit <http://mactraynham.com/> to see his site “Mac’s Custom Cabinets, Banjos and More”.



Bruce Molsky—2005—AFF31

Bruce (with Tony Trishka and Paula Bradley) played as Jawbone, who brought us spectacular music, described as Old Time meets New Grass. This fiddler has a brand new trio, Molsky’s Mountain Drifters, with Allison de Groot and Stash Wyslouch. The music is identified as “tradition steeped in possibility”. Their CD is available now (fiddle, banjo, guitar). <http://brucemolsky.com/>

Guest Artists—Where Are They Now (cont.)



Séamus Egan.—1989—AFF15

Séamus was part of the Mick Moloney Trio. Later he founded a fantastic Irish-American band, Solas (pronounced Suh-less). This year was the 20th Anniversary and has been celebrated with an all-star, one-time lineup, All These Years.

<http://solasmusic.com/>

(written up by Anne Fuller)

Note from the Treasurer

The end of 2016 is approaching; the perfect time to get in those last tax deductible donations to support your Alaska Folk Festival. Thanks to your generous membership contributions the festival has remained free to the public for 43 years, but we do have expenses! Help us keep the music going by renewing your membership or sending an extra end of the year gift. The membership levels may be changing in 2017 so renew today to stay at your current level for the next festival.

Send in your membership/donation form attached to this newsletter, or renew online!

Your Board

- ... **Erin Heist**, President (exp **2018**)
- ... **Ian Putnam**, Vice President (exp **2019**)
- ... **Val Snyder**, Treasurer (exp **2018**)
- ... **Bob Schroeder**, Secretary (exp **2019**)
- ... **Rachel Brown** (exp **2019**)
- ... **Debbie Johnson** (exp **2018**)
- ... **Pat Henry** (exp **2017**)
- ... **Julia Garrity** (exp **2017**)
- ... **Connor Berry** (exp **2017**)



While we were very sorry to see Paul Disdier step down after serving two years as our vice president (and countless years as a AFF supporter and member), we're thrilled to have Julia Garrity step into the gap to help us through this year's festival. This Fairbanks woman took several years longer than she intended to make it to AFF. Once she made it however, she decided also to make Juneau her home and moved her a week after that Folk Fest in 2014. Julia is an artist, originally from Fairbanks, a State employee, a dancer, and AFF's newest board member. You may also recognize her as the artist who volunteered to create last year's gorgeous light-up backdrop. Welcome, Julia!

Feel free to join us for any and all meetings leading up the festival. Our next meeting is:

Tuesday, January 10th—6pm—Downtown Public Library