April 2021
Newsletter
46th Annual
Alaska Folk Festival
April 5-12, 2021

The 46th Alaska Folk Festival is online April 5-11

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<th>Mon. Apr. 5</th>
<th>Tue. Apr. 6</th>
<th>Wed. Apr. 7</th>
<th>Thur. Apr. 8</th>
<th>Fri. Apr. 9</th>
<th>Sat. Apr. 10</th>
<th>Sun. Apr. 11</th>
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<td>9:00-10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>10:30 a.m. - 12 noon</td>
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How to Tune In

- Workshops - Zoom
- Main Concerts - YouTube
- Quarantine Happy Hour - Facebook
- Guest Artists - KTOO 360 North

RADIO - All Concerts Broadcast on KRNN, 102.7 FM

All Info on: www.akfolkest.org

Quarantine Happy Hour 5:30-6:30pm
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AFF Annual Meeting 6pm (via Zoom)

Main Concert 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Main Concert 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Main Concert 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Guest Artist TV Concert 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Alaska Folk Festival Membership Form

Name: ________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________
City/ State: ____________________________________
Zip:  __________________________________________
Amount: $______________    Visa/ MasterCard ONLY
Exp. Date_______________   3 Digit Security Code: ______________
# ___ ___ ___ ___   ___ ___ ___ ____   ___ ___ ___ ___   ___ ___ ___ ___
Signature: _______________________________________________

☐ I’d like to receive e-newsletters instead of paper

Email: _____________________________________________

Donation Amount: $ _________
☐ Benefactor       ($500 and Above)
☐ Patron          ($150—$499)
☐ Friend         ($50—$149)
☐ Member        ($25—$49)
☐ Pay As You Can    Any Amount
☐ Please do not list my name in the program

All members receive AFF newsletters and are invited to the AFF Annual Meeting in April. Benefactors, Patrons and Friends will be listed in the future festival program. Please mail form to: Alaska Folk Festival, PO Box 21748, Juneau, AK 99802.

Donations are tax deductible according to law. (EIN: #92-0098258).

Contributing to Alaska Folk Festival

Even though we are not in person this year, our amazing board of volunteers has built an impressive alternative festival, working creatively to make sure that many of the core components of AFF are still here, online! We appreciate your continued support through memberships and donations to allow our festival to thrive for years to come. Funds this year have gone towards airing our Marquee Guest Artist Concert on KTOO 360TV, contracting with Tune Supply to feature over a hundred Alaskan artists in a virtual “mainstage,” offering top-notch Zoom workshops, improving our website, along with more projects that will improve our festival moving into the future. Please consider supporting our festival, and the many artists, fans, and volunteers who love this event!
Music has thrived in Alaska since time immemorial. Through storms and challenges and changes to our land and livelihoods, Alaskans have connected, celebrated and grieved through song and dance in many different forms for all of time.

This Alaska Folk Festival’s 46th year is no different. If there is anything the pandemic has taught us, it’s that musicians are unstoppable in creating community with each other, and displaying resiliency through hard times.

When Juneau went on hunker down, I resigned to spend winter nights playing banjo alone. Surprisingly, quite the opposite happened. Musicians nationwide flocked online to create communities, connect, and share music. I joined them.

World class concerts began popping up on my social media feeds, some through Quarantine Happy Hour, a popular stream which is currently partnering to host AFF Artists. I got to see professional musicians play everyday- for free!

Throughout this pandemic year, I interacted with hundreds of online posts, videos, and content from other old-time musicians across several platforms. I joined several clawhammer banjo Facebook groups where players from around the world share advice, updates on their progress, and encouraging comments with other banjo learners. I regularly scrolled through the #banjotuneoftheweek Instagram thread, where professionals and beginners alike post videos of a weekly clawhammer song. I had the opportunity to take Zoom lessons with incredible professionals like Allison DeGroot and Reeb Willms as they’ve taken a break from touring.

Besides meeting new musicians, I used virtual platforms to reconnect with friends in Alaska. I participated with faraway friends in the Nome Arts Council Open Mic. A fiddle playing friend and I planned to email recordings back and forth of ourselves playing tunes. My roommate teared up while streaming the Sitka Monthly Grind on Youtube. He said that the performance transported him back to lighter times.

When all else failed, when I was alone, my banjo comforted me in the moments where it felt like this pandemic could swallow Juneau whole.

There is nothing like sitting hip to hip with musicians, cramming into bars and living rooms, knocking elbows and bumping guitar necks. But during COVID, I have also grown as a musician and discovered resources and connections that I plan to continue using when this all slows down. I’m confident that I’ll jump back into playing with renewed energy and appreciation soon- when we can all be together again!

Devin Tatro, Board Member
All concerts will be broadcast on the radio: KRNN, 102.7 FM & KTOO 104.3

Do not forget to tune in to our Marquee 1-hour Guest Artist concert. It will air on KTOO 360TV Sunday April 11 @ 8pm Alaska Time, featuring Richie Stearns and Rosie Newton.

Former Guest Artist Receives Award

2018 AFF Guest Artist duo Jason & Pharis Romero are nominated for The Juno Award for Traditional Roots Album of the Year. This honor is presented annually at Canada's Juno Awards to honor the best album of the year in the traditional roots genre. We love watching our AFF guests continue to grow in their careers!

Don’t forget! Our Marquee 1-hour Guest Artist concert will air on KTOO 360TV Sunday April 11
Thank you to Our Community Performance Artists!

Tune in to main-stage concerts on our AFF Youtube Channel—link on AFF website.

The Honey Badgers  Chris Thompson & Friends  Koski Family Band
The Fedelitys  Summerfall  Sonia Kumar and Wendy Hladick
The Brewskis  Somewhere In Between  Highway 64
Rado  Van Fleet and the Delivery Boys  Heartstrings
Haggis Maximus  Meg and Mike  Annie Hopper
Landbridge Tollbooth  Jim's Red Pants  Heather Mountcastle & Eric Graves
Sand Witches  Heartstrings  Erin and Andrew Heist
Lisa and John  Jeanie's Kitchen Band  Daniel Firmin
Tracy Spring with Steve Tada  Jim's Red Pants  Live from the Smoking Room
Irish Coffee  Lucy Hankins  Pink Bandera And The D
Allan Edwards  Raven Call  Saltwater Hank
Super Bear  Aleksandra & Gramps  Far From Home Recordings
Alaska String Band  Roland Roberts Band  Marian Call
Weasel Gras Cajun Band  Sarah C Hanson  Lost On C
Sunny Porch Collaborative  Chrisman Sisters  Wayward Jerry
Hermanos Harmiddijos  Whiskey Class  SaraBeth
Q  The High 5's  Turnagain Blues
The Foggy Tops Bluegrass Band  West/Winship  The Moving Hats
The Radio Flyers  Wings To Fly  Kinky Slinky
Josh Revak and John Bitney  The Geoff Kirsch Experience Experi-
The Empty Oil Barrel Band  ment Project feat. Margie McWilliams and Chris
Jakelegs  Chris Thompson  Richards
The Sundews  McWilliams and Chris Dionisio
The Lost Lakers  Dale Wygant and the Fiery Gypsies
New Twin  Tramwreck  Mark Mandeville & Raianne Richards
John Palmes  The House Family Band  XTRA-TUFF
  The Chill Cats  Aldyn & Julius
  My American Myth  the Brufantssons
  Annie B and Wendy
In Remembrance

Art Johns Sr, Tagish/Yukon, Edler, country singer, and beloved AFF musician will be lovingly remembered at this year’s festival. You can read Ed Shoenfeld’s beautiful 2017 piece “Yukon cowboy shares love of old country songs at folk festival” on ktoo.org

Elisabeth "Lis' Marie Stork Saya, Juneau musician and artist will be dearly missed. Listen to this radio tribute “Obituary: Elisabeth Saya 1948 – 2020” on ktoo.org

Philip Reeves, Haines firefighter and AFF soundboard volunteer’s presence and contributions to our festival will remain cherished in his absence. Read: “Reeves: A dedicated volunteer who worked and played hard” in Chilkat Valley News.

Attend an Online Workshop this Year!

This year we will be offering a weekend of online workshops via Zoom. For info and join links, visit akfolkfest.org.

Workshop Schedule: Saturday & Sunday

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Annual Membership Meeting & Election

Due to COVID-19 Our annual membership meeting will be held online this year. You can attend by zoom or phone—link is on AFF website.

6:00pm, Friday, April 9th, 2020.

Open to all current AFF members, this is your chance to contribute to the future of the festival by voting on board members and sharing your thoughts on the festival with the board.

Video weblink and Phone number will be provided on the AFF website shortly before the meeting.