

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

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Photo by Paul Andrews

The Wilders are coming to Juneau!

The Wilders are a nationally touring acoustic quartet from Kansas City, Missouri. **Ike Sheldon** (lead vocals, guitar), **Betse Ellis** (fiddle, vocals), **Phil Wade** (dobro, mandolin, banjo, vocals), and **Nate Gawron** (string bass, vocals) play old time country music, original songs and fiddle tunes with engaging energy and spirit. The Wilders have gained critical acclaim and radio airplay throughout the United States and beyond. Since 1996, they have performed at festivals and concerts, on radio, television, and independent film soundtracks.

In June 2002 The Wilders appeared on Minnesota Public Radio's "Prairie Home Companion" with Iris DeMent; they performed at the Kennedy Center in 2004, and on "Woodsongs Old-Time Radio Hour" in 2005.

The Alaska Folk Festival is bringing The Wilders to the capital city on Tuesday, June 13th at 7:30 p.m. at Centennial Hall. Tickets are \$15 in advance for adults and \$10 for children and seniors.



Photo by Michael Kanemoto

Hello Folk Fest Members!

Wow, from the comments, and attendance, AFF 32 was a great success. Having **Nanci Griffith** as our Guest Artist choice was a huge change from prior years and for some of the traditionalists it might not have been their first choice. Sometimes change can be a great thing, and overall, the comments continue to be very positive. (Yes, except for the double set.) While we have not determined our Guest Artist for next year, we are looking for an act that will appeal to everyone, not an easy task! It is important to remember that the guest artist really is just a piece of the festival. This year we enjoyed a diversity of acts, great dance bands, Becky Hill our guest caller, informative workshops, and the opportunity to share in the musical community that gathers in Juneau each spring. Those are the parts that really keep us all coming back for more.

I would officially like to welcome Terry Hoskinson to the AFF board. Terry will be a great addition to the board and is already working on setting up the summer Wilders concert.

With Alaska Folk Festival 32 past the sense of enthusiasm, community, volunteerism, and artistry that filled Centennial Hall is all but a fading memory. As an AFF Board Member, those memories, the enjoyable reflections you share, and the community appreciation we receive makes it easier to consider the possibilities for AFF 33. The cycle never ends!

Happy tunes, happy summer,

--- Linda Frame

--- AFF Board President

Alaska Folk Festival Membership Form

33rd Annual Alaska Folk Festival: April 9 - 15, 2007



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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Amount: \$ _____ Visa ___ MC ___ Exp. Date: _____

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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 23, 2007). Please mail to: Alaska Folk Festival, P.O. Box 21748, Juneau, Alaska 99802.

Thank you!



AFF Board Members through AFF 33

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)
Maridon Boario, Vice President (exp '07)
Jamie Brown, Treasurer (exp '08)
Michael Sakarias, Secretary (exp '07)
Greg McLaughlin (exp '07)
Christine Hess, (exp '08)
Terry Hoskinson (exp '09)

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: 2007 AFF33**" you are a member in good standing for AFF33. 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**" following 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 33rd Annual Alaska Folk Festival coming up April 9-15, 2007, 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
Keeper of the AFF database/mailling list

Using the “Bluegrass” Single Mic

(info for performers and the audience)

You’ve seen it from the audience, several people clustered about a single mic on stage, “dancing” in and out — just link the Foggy Bottom Boys in “Oh, Brother, Where Art Thou.” Looks cool. If you’re a performer, you might be thinking that YOU want to do that, too. BUT, as we saw at AFF32, the type of mic is NOT for everyone.

First, what to call it? An Omni mic? Though some of these mics CAN be set up to be omnidirectional, in use on stage, they are cardioid — just like the AKG C1000s and Shure SM58s the Festival uses. Calling this mic a Large Diaphragm Condenser Mic is a mouth full. Maybe “Single Mic” is best, for now.

First a bit of tech info:

Q: What is the difference between the C1000s and the KSM32 (which the AFF used this year as a single mic)?

A: In the sound environment of the AFF stage, essentially nothing.

For the tech fanatics, if you look at the polar pattern for the C1000s and the KSM 32, they are essentially identical. The KSM is a large diaphragm condenser mic. The C1000 has a mid-sized diaphragm. Is there a sound difference? Yes, but it is small, and easily small enough that the audience at the AFF would not detect the difference, and would be happy listening to either.

Advantages of using a Single Mic for the performer: YOU are able to do your own mixing. You don’t have to rely on the sound engineer guessing what you are supposed to sound like. The coolness factor. It LOOKS so cool when the mic is used well.

DISADVANTAGE of using a single mic:

YOU are TOTALLY responsible for your mix. If you get it wrong, there is nothing the sound engineer can do to help.

Here are a couple of the ways people got it wrong, this year at the AFF:

1) Standing too far from the mic - The single mic is just a mic, not a “magic” mic — though many performers at AFF32 acted like they thought it was. Just like all mics in a stage environment (with speakers throwing sound around), the closer you are to the mic the better. There were several acts at AFF32 that positioned themselves (voices and/or instruments) so they were too far away from the mic. At least one of the groups who did this claimed they knew how to use the single mic. Unfortunately, they proved to the audience that they didn’t.

Why can’t the sound engineer just turn the mic up? Feedback. There is a speaker about 15 feet above the performers. When sound from the speaker gets into the mic loud enough, there is feedback. There is a real limit as to how high the sound engineer can turn things up. The result for these “too far away” acts is that they sound real thin out in the audience — and, they have no idea that is the case.



2) Creating a lousy mix — Since performers using a single mic have to mix themselves, but they are on stage and the audience is out there, this is not nearly as easy as it sounds or as a few bands make it look. It takes PRACTICE before a performance with someone listening to the result in the audience and having the band make adjustments. With a 15 minute set (counting set-up) at the AFF, there simply isn’t time to fix things when you get it wrong.

I’ll close with an anecdote from AFF27 in 2001. The Guest Artists were Tom, Brad and Alice. THEY wanted to use a single mic. Sure, they’re pros. Only thing is, they only did a so-so job. It wasn’t until The Festival of American Fiddle Tunes in Port Townsend, that July, that T, B & A finally got it right. I was part of the Fiddle Tunes tech crew. We did a sound check with them and worked with them so that they could position themselves correctly for the best blend of voices and instruments. It was NOT intuitive, even for them. It took PRACTICE and constructive comments to get it right.

A couple conclusions:

For the audience: If you wish an act using a single mic were louder or that the mix was better, the fault is with the band. There is nothing the sound engineer can do to fix the mix. That is the soal responsibility of the band using the single mic. And, if the band is TOO FAR from the mic, there is nothing the sound engineer can do about making it louder (a sound engineer can ALWAYS turn things down, but can NOT always turn things up -- the squeal of feedback limiting how far one can turn things up).

For the bands: If you think a single mic would be cool to use, do you really want to experiment with your 15 minutes on the AFF stage?

This was just an introduction to the topic of single mic use. We’ll have more to say in the next couple newsletters.

--- Mike Sakarias

Treasurer's Notes

By any measure AFF32 (32nd Alaska Folk Festival) was a success! Remember all that great AFF artwork enhanced merchandise? Well every time you and your friend bought a sweatshirt, tee shirt or hat, you helped support the folk festival. Merchandise sales were up from AFF31 and brought in \$29,327. Since the merchandise cost was \$23,574, this added \$5,753 to our coffers.

Memberships during folk festival week were also up from last year. We saw 388 new members join our ranks. Along with all the renewing members this brought in \$15,800 during festival week. Other revenue sources include program sales \$3845 and concessions \$875. We also received generous donations from the O'Callaghan Family Foundation and CBJ.



Just to give you an idea of our costs - we paid \$12,000 for this year's guest artist; \$700 for the guest caller; \$8110 for travel, meals and lodging for guests and support people; \$7110 for professional support services. Other expenses include rent, newsletters, program printing, insurance, mailing, utilities, accounting, bank processing, office supplies and more. When all the bills are in (yes, we are still waiting for some), there will be a more complete accounting of AFF finances. Watch for this in the fall newsletter.

What you don't see accounted for on the books is the tremendous value of time and effort that comes from volunteers just like you. Our free festival would not happen without all of you volunteers and supporters. So a really big THANK YOU goes out to all of you.

--- Jamie Brown
--- AFF Treasurer