

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

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

33rd Annual Folk Festival Guest Artists - The Carolina Chocolate Drops!



About 14 years ago I went to the Festival of American Fiddle Tunes in Port Townsend, Washington and was delighted to hear the music of Joe and Odell Thompson, cousins, and the last of the black stringband musicians in America. It was a great discovery for me, as I had only seen old film footage of black stringbands and thought that they had disappeared long ago. African-American stringbands were prolific in the early part of the twentieth century. But as blacks moved into urban areas looking for employment in the Great Depression, black stringbands became harder to find.

Odell Thompson died in 1994 at the age of 83. His passing broke the last link to the black stringband tradition as a living, breathing art form.

The Carolina Chocolate Drops are a group of young African-American stringband musicians that have come together to play the rich tradition of fiddle and banjo music in Carolina's piedmont. Although they have diverse musical backgrounds, they draw their musical heritage from the foothills of North and South Carolina. They have been under the tutelage of Joe Thompson, said to be the last black traditional string band player, of Mebane, North Carolina and they strive to carry on the long standing traditional music of the black and white communities. They have been influenced by Odell and Nate Thompson, Dink Roberts,

John Snipes, Libba Cotten, Emp White and countless others who have passed beyond memory and recognition.

The Carolina Chocolate Drops are : **Dom Flemmons**. Born and raised in Arizona, Dom has thoroughly immersed himself in the sounds of yesterday, with a prodigious record collection and an immense knowledge of the different playing styles of the blues, country, and stringband traditions. As part of the Chocolate Drops, Dom uses harmonica, guitar, bones, and jug to add an infectious rhythm.

Rhiannon Giddens was born in the Carolina piedmont and grew up with the sounds of bluegrass from one side of her family and classic blues and jazz on the other side. After graduating the Oberlin Conservatory of music, she fell into contra dancing and became inspired by the old-time bands she heard at the dances. She worked extra hard to buy her first banjo and fiddle and hasn't looked back since. She plays with Joe Thompson every chance she gets. She also calls contra and social dances.

Justin Robinson is the fiddler for the Chocolate Drops. He grew up in North Carolina in a house full of musicians, his mother was an opera singer and cellist, sister a classical pianist and his grandfather a harmonica player. He played classical violin at the age of 9 and is under the tutelage of Joe Thompson. He met Joe, as well as the other members of the Chocolate Drops, at a Black Banjo Gathering in Boone, North Carolina.

We are delighted to have the Carolina Chocolate Drops as our guest artists for the 33rd Alaska Folk Festival, carrying on the rich heritage of the Black stringband tradition.

-- Greg McLaughlin

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-l/>

Alaska Folk Festival Membership Form

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

Visa or Mastercard ONLY



Amount \$ _____
___ 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: \$ _____ Exp. Date _____ CVS code: _____

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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!

Hello Friends,

It is that time of year again! Time to get your application in for Alaska Folk Festival 33. With calls for performer applications, we know there are many folks who have been polishing up their 15-minute sets. Along with the need for musicians to keep our toes tapping, we always need lots of volunteers to make the festival function. If you are a member who would rather listen than grace the stage, please know that we really look forward to the return of the volunteer forms. There are plenty of tasks for all to share and contribute to the week of music, friendship and fun.

See you at Centennial Hall, April 8th for set up, or 9th through 15th for great music and a chance to see old friends.

Cheers!
Linda Frame
Board President

New Way to Become an AFF Member

AFF can now accept your credit card payment from our web site. This means you can join or renew your Alaska Folk Festival membership quickly and easily from the comfort of your home or office or internet cafe.

Simply go to our web site at <http://akfolkfest.org> and click on "membership". Select your membership level and amount and click GO.

Remember it is your memberships that allow the folk festival to be the great event it is year after year. Oh, and while you are at it, don't forget to volunteer! A BIG 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)

Board Member Seats

Each year board seats expire and this year we have 3 friends who are up for re-election. At this time we know we will have 1 and possibly 2 or 3 seats open. If you want to see what happens at board meetings or are just looking for some way to get involved in the preplanning, please join us at for a meeting. Check our web site for the time and place. The board meets on a monthly basis until the first of March when we will meet each Monday prior to the big event

If you want to help the AFF happen, this year and next, get involved, now. Come to AFF33 organizational meetings. consider running for the board.

Alaska Folk Festival VOLUNTEER JOBS

So, what is it that volunteers do to put on the Alaska Folk Festival? When someone tells us “I want to help with the Festival, just let me know what I can do,” it seems like such a simple offer and question. The answer is not short. There are many, many jobs that need doing to make the Festival happen. The **Volunteer Form**, in this mailing, lists several jobs the Festival needs volunteers for, but there are many more jobs. Here is an (lightly) annotated list. Long though it may be, it is not all inclusive.

If you see something YOU think might be interesting to do or that you would like to help with, LET US KNOW. AFF Voice Mail = 463-3316

Board of Directors - Seven members (all volunteers) —
Runs the Festival organization throughout the year. Selects and hires the Guest Artists, schedules Festival concert and dance schedules, coordinates all the volunteers before and during the Festival. Board membership is open to any AFF member, though it helps to live in Juneau where most of the work is. Elections are part of the Annual Meeting, Friday, April 7th, 5 PM at the National Guard Armory.

PRE-FESTIVAL

- Program Designer
- Poster Distribution (mostly to program advertisers)
- Salesperson for FF Program ads
- Typists to enter performer info for program
- Workshop Coordinator — Schedules workshops
- Dance Coordinator — Organizes the Dance Venue
- Songwriters' Showcase Organizer
- PR Coordinator — Guest Artist and other info to the Media
- Merchandise Ordering Person
- Emcee Manager Scheduler
- Stage Manager Scheduler
- Dance Master Scheduler
- Centennial Hall Tech Crew Scheduler
- Set-up Day, Set-up Crew (Merchandise prep, Lobby prep, Sound, Backdrop, Lights, Go-fer)

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.

DURING FESTIVAL

- Emcees — see the “How-To” on the AFF web site @ <http://www.akfolkfest.org> -- look in the left column under “volunteers
- Stage Managers — runs the behind-the-stage operations, getting the acts on stage when they need to be. There is a How-To for this on the AFF web site, too.
- Stage Crew Leader
- Stage Crew Member — Moves the mics, etc., between acts. See the “Stage Crew” How-To on the AFF website.
- Sound Engineering Assistants
Mix or help mix Stage or House sound
Act as communicators between the Stage & Main Sound Board
- Membership Table — Many, many people needs to do this over the week
Sell folk festival memberships, mugs, etc.
Act as Information Booth
- Volunteer Hospitality
Make sure coffee/snacks are ready for sound/stage crew
- Family Concert Coordinator
Organizes the Family concert
- Day Care Coordinator — Makes sure day care needs are met
- Workshop Coordinator — Makes sure the workshops are running smoothly
- Dance Coordinator — Make sure dances are running smoothly
- Dance Master — In charge of dances, equal to Emcee/Stage Manager
- Dance Sound Engineer — In charge of sound at the dance venue
- Dance Venue Technical Crew, Sound Crew/Stage Crew
- Songwriter's Showcase Producer — Runs the Showcase
- Guest Artist Hospitality Arrangers & Guest Artist Wranglers
Get them where they need to be.
- Clean-up crews at various times throughout the Festival.



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 AFF**” 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—**” 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).

Folk Festival Organizing Meetings

All meetings are at KTOO, 360 Egan Drive, Juneau

February 5 (Monday) 7 PM @ KTOO — Board Meeting
February 19 (Monday) — Possible meeting
March 10 (Monday) 7 PM @ KTOO — Board Meeting
March 19 (Monday) 7 PM @ KTOO — Board Meeting
March 26 (Monday) 7 PM @ KTOO — Board Meeting
April 2 (Monday) 7 PM @ KTOO — Board Meeting

These meetings are open to everyone who wants to get involved and lend a hand making the AFF happen.

Other dates and meetings:

March 2 (Friday) — Due Date for Performer Apps
March 9 (Friday) Noon @ KTOO — Tentative Schedule Mailing
April 13 (Friday) 5 PM @ Dance Venue — AFF Annual Membership Meeting

Thinking about performing at the 33rd Alaska Folk Festival?

There are two pages on the Folk Festival’s Web site that contain a LOT of useful information for prospective performers.

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

This page is a lengthy **Performer FAQ** containing answers to just about every questions performers ask. If you have any questions at all, the answers are probably there, including questions you might not know enough to ask, yet.

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

This page gives a few **On Stage Tips** for performers, 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 **IN OUR HANDS not later than 5 PM, Friday March 2nd.**
- Performance sets in Centennial Hall are **15 minutes COUNTING 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 is allowed 15 minutes in some detail, but basically it is 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 9rd. 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 put on standby? Last year we had two dozen more acts applying to perform than we had performance spots.