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## December 2015 Newsletter

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

### ANNOUNCING THE 2016 GUEST ARTIST THE CARPER FAMILY FEATURING GUITARIST SOPHIA JOHNSON

*We're* thrilled to announce that next year's guest artist will be The Carper Family featuring guitarist Sophia Johnson.

The Carper Family is a family band like no other, spinning out the effortless harmonies of a born-family with the range and diversity of a made-family... Whatever the bloodline, the music hits the ear with both depth and simplicity, capturing the essence of true country music. The Austin-based trio of Melissa Carper [upright bass], Beth Chrisman [fiddle], and Jenn Miori [guitar] applies their signature, stunning three-part harmonies to bluegrass, old-time, country and swing tunes of the standard and original variety, pushing and honoring American musical traditions at every step.

Affectionately known within the band and around town as Daddy, **Melissa Carper** grew up in Nebraska playing country music with her family and performing in a family band. By the age 10 she had already started studying her instrument, taking the classical lessons that would lead to a lifetime love of the bass. She later discovered bluegrass, old-time, country blues and swing with time living in the Ozarks of Arkansas and busking on Royal Street in New Orleans. *(Continued...)*



# Alaska Folk Festival Membership Form

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$ _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member	(\$30—\$49)
<input type="checkbox"/> Friend	(\$50—\$99)
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	(\$100—\$249)
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	(\$250 and above)
<input type="checkbox"/> Member	(\$15—\$29)
<input type="checkbox"/> Please do not list my name in the program	

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Visa/Mastercard ONLY  
Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ 3 digit security code: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

All members receive the Festival newsletters. Benefactors, Patrons, Friends, and Sustaining members will be listed in the Festival, Juneau, Alaska program (deadline: March 15, 2016). Please mail to: Alaska Folk Festival, PO Box 99802. Thank You!!

## Contra Dance Schedule December 2015

<u>Date</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Caller</u>
12/11	Impromptu	Odette Edgar
12/31	Charley Hunt/Nancy Bayer	Susie Kendig

**All dances 7:30 - 11:00pm**  
*St. Ann's Parish Hall*

### AFF Contact & Info Sources

**Phone:** 907-463-3316

**Email:** [Info@AlaskaFolkFestival.org](mailto:Info@AlaskaFolkFestival.org)

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

**Twitter:** @AK\_FolkFest

**Web Site:** [AKFolkFest.org](http://AKFolkFest.org)

## Gold Street Music

Remember to mark your calendar for the first Saturday of each month for Gold Street Music. It offers a delightful and unique opportunity to hear local musicians in a fine acoustic setting. Concerts are held at the 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 209-6517 or Frederick 523-6999.

Each evening features performances from five to six local acoustic groups.

**Next Date: 12/5**

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## The 2016 AFF Guest Artist: THE CARPER FAMILY (CONTINUED)



You can hear the high-lonesome of her birth-state Kentucky in the voice and fiddling of **Beth Chrisman**, but the warmth comes straight from the festive and tight-knit picking community of Alaska, where she grew up and absorbed the variety of American country music traditions that have a special place among the snowy peaks and pine forests of the far north. She's come a long way since then, showing up in Austin in 2006 when she started fiddling with local bluegrass and honky tonk groups, and is now well-known for her sit in and studio work with local and touring artists.

**Jenn Miori** is Texas born and bred, and like many Texans, she grew up playing music with her family, learning guitar from her dad and harmony singing from her mom at a young age. She fell in love with old country music when she moved to Austin in the early oughts to go to the University of Texas. When she eventually put together her first country band, the Corn Ponies, they quickly became an important part of that blossoming country scene.

Joining the band on lead guitar is **Sophia Johnson**, a recent addition to the Austin music scene who hails from Birmingham, England. Before moving to Texas, she performed all over the UK and Europe as a founding member of family band, the Toy Hearts. Sophia is equally adept at playing vintage Western swing guitar as she is flatpicking hot bluegrass leads.

In the last few years, the Carper's rise has impressed and entertained audiences and their fellow musicians all over the place. They've shared stages with any number of country notables, including steel-guitar master Cindy Cashdol-

lar, West Virginia's Ginny Hawker, and Kansas City fiddle legend, Betse Ellis. And, like any country band worth its salt, they tour hard, crisscrossing North America and Europe to play gigs at festivals from Alaska [Kantishna] and Arkansas [Fayetteville Roots, Ozark Folk] to Norway [Risor, Vinstra, Seljord], and at storied venues like Nashville's Station Inn.

To the Carper Family, country music isn't just about entertaining; it's also about understanding, honoring, and developing American country communities in the city and on the farm. As such, they've taught workshops and lessons at a variety of gatherings and regularly play at country dances, farmers' markets, and farm potlucks. Their aspirations, professional and personal alike, point to spirit of the rural places from which they have come and to which they hope to go.

As Jim Caligiuri of the Austin Chronicle has written, *"[They] blend their voices immaculately... and write warm and enticing songs that sound like they were new 50 years ago."*

Their original songs range from the deeply-moving to the profoundly quirky and their catalogue of lesser known country music is impressive for such a young group. The Carper Family's dedication to the rich and sprawling history of American country music and the joy they bring audiences with their crystalline sound guarantee that these ladies

## PICK UP YOUR FOLK FEST GOODIES AT THE JACC - YEAR ROUND!

We keep the gift shop at the Juneau Arts and Culture Center (JACC) stocked year-round with the latest Folk Festival merchandise. Stop by and grab some last minute holiday gifts!



Long-time Folk Fest supporter and performer Raine Godwin passed away this week in Port Townsend, WA.

Raine's spirit and songs will be greatly missed. Our sincere condolences go out to all her friends and family.



## Performer Applications - Open Application Period January 15 - February 27th

With the nights getting longer, we hope you're filling up your evenings with lots of good music. Whether you're a regularly gigging musician, a living room jammer, or a brand new picker, start thinking about your Folk Fest set. Anyone can apply!

A word about the folk fest performer selection process: while we genuinely wish that every single applicant could receive a performance spot, our spots are limited and our applicants grow every year. Putting together the folk festival schedule is one of the hardest parts of being on the Folk Festival board. To say that everyone has an equal chance at a set is a lie - we give preference to performers who were waitlisted the previous festival and to performers who are applying for the first time. Part of our mission is encouraging the development and growth of folk music in Alaska, and we think one the best ways we can do that is to provide performers with what may be their first time on a stage with a great sound

crew and the most generous audience around. We also try to ensure that each concert has a variety of styles of music and a variety of group sizes.

With that said, we can't wait to see what you put together. Keep picking and keep singing!

### Your Board

- Erin Hanson, President (exp 2018)
- Paul Disdier, Vice President (exp 2017)
- Val Snyder, Secretary (exp 2018)
- Bob Schroeder, Treasurer (exp 2016)
- Rachel Brown (exp 2016)
- Pat Henry (exp 2017)
- Mike Truax (exp 2016)

We meet at 6pm on the second Monday of the month in one of the conference rooms at the KTOO building. Please join us! Next meeting will be on December 14th.