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November 2017 Newsletter

44th Annual

Alaska Folk Festival
April 9-15, 2018

44th Annual Guest Artist announcement coming soon!



44th AFF Poster Artist: James Kelly

Alaskan artist James Kelly was recently chosen as the 44th annual Alaska Folk Fest poster artist. James grew up in Nome and Ketchikan, went to college in Fairbanks, and now calls Juneau his home. Through all of these unique, Alaskan geographies, James had a sketchbook in his hand. In Ketchikan, inspired by such artists as Ray Troll, Evon Zerbetz and Dave Rubin, James learned that early connection with paper could also extend to works in clay, dramatic self-produced VHS films, and stop frame animation. In Fairbanks, James pursued a degree in Art at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and began to paint murals and hone his interest in graphic design.

James has an eye for the quirky and off-kilter side of Alaskan culture and geography. Whether it's riding fat tire bikes in the arctic snow, scavenging a Fairbanks Transfer Site (the local dump) or paddling around Southeast Alaska, James is always looking to illustrate what surrounds him. James says: "Art doesn't have to mean anything, it just needs to be fun" His humorous and whimsical illustrations have been featured in numerous posters, logos, newspapers, t-shirts and stickers.

James now lives, works, and plays outdoors in Juneau with his wife Rachel. When he's not kayaking or biking, he is a graphic designer for the Juneau Empire and runs decaffeinated designs, a sticker and logo company.

A sampling of his art work can be viewed at decaffeinateddesigns.com



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 festival program (deadline March 15). Please mail form to: Alaska Folk Festival, PO Box 21748, Juneau, AK 99802.

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

A Cover Charge for Folk Fest?!?!?

In the early 1980's, Alaska Folk Festival organizers decided that the festival should be free of charge to all participants. What has evolved is a homegrown all-volunteer event with no paid staff (only the guest artist, chief and dance sound engineer, and guest dance caller are compensated), that encourages non-professional performers and the sharing of Alaska's most widely practiced art... home-made music.

The Alaska Folk Festival relies on membership dues, Pick.Click.Give donations, merchandise sales, and the generous donations of businesses and individuals to pay for festival costs and (in good years) set aside funds to support future events. There are no plans to sell tickets to Folk Fest or charge admission anytime soon, but that means we need your ongoing support to keep operations running smoothly and bring high-quality guest artists to Juneau.

There are many ways to support the Alaska Folk Festival:

1. Complete and send in the Membership Form above with your donation information.
2. Go to akfolkfest.org to renew your membership online.
3. Donate a portion of your PFD to Alaska Folk Festival through the Pick.Click.Give. program.
4. Add the Alaska Folk Festival to your Amazon Smile account.
5. Become an Alaska Folk Festival volunteer and sign-up at the akfolkfest.org website.
6. Purchase Alaska Folk Festival merchandise during the festival.

The 43rd Annual Alaska Folk Festival broke even in 2017 and there were even a few dollars left over once the bills were paid. Thank you to the hundreds of dedicated supporters who make this event possible.



Folk Festival News and Updates

Guest Artist Update

Many people who come to the Alaska Folk Festival as guest artists leave as friends and many of us in the audience follow their careers and listen to subsequent recordings. This fall, one of the guest artists from the Carolina Chocolate Drops (2007) made the news. Rhiannon Giddens is one of this year's MacArthur Foundation Fellows - yes, that's the "genius" grant which is given to "extraordinarily creative people who inspire us all". Ms. Giddens was recognized for "reclaiming African American contributions to folk and country music and bringing to light new connections between music from the past and the present".

One favorite clip is from her performance at the White House in 2015, which you can see online (around the 15:15 mark) at <http://www.pbs.org/video/-performance-gospel-tradition-performance-white-house/>



Preserving our Heritage

Music is a part of Juneau's heritage and luckily our town has museums that protect important artifacts and documents. Last spring a frequent audience member approached the Folk Festival Board with a stack of festival programs that had been saved over the years.

Alaska Folk Festival member Anne Fuller checked the museums' holdings and now we can report that the Alaska State Museum's collection is complete. The Juneau Douglas City Museum now has 13 of the most recent programs in their files and they noted the donation in the newsletter this summer.

Many thanks to the anonymous longtime audience member who donated these programs. Hopefully in the future these will be displayed at the museums during the festival to commemorate the last 43 years of this important community event.

You can view digital versions of past Folk Fest programs (like this one from the 14th annual festival in 1988) at <http://www.akfolkfest.org/prgms.php>

Move to the Music

Dancing is a great way to experience music. In the early eighties, Folk Fest dances were held in the street. A few years later, there were dances in Centennial Hall after evening concerts finished. Maybe you remember hundreds dancing in a spiral to the klezmer music of Brave Old World in 1996. Michael Alpert, the bandleader that night, says he remembers that wonderful dance to this day. And for many years now, a group of volunteers have run Friday's Coffee and Jam, which is full of dancing.

We dance to live music in a variety of genres. During the festival, volunteers offer to teach you in workshops, to direct and call dances, and to play tunes that make you tap your toes. Please consider lending your talent, skills, and enthusiasm to the dancing part of the festival. Volunteer applications are made available several months before the festival and performer applications from dance musicians are also welcome. For more about traditional dancing at Folk Fest, check out <http://akfolkfest.org/dance.php>



Heartfelt Thanks to 43rd AFF Volunteers

Dedicated volunteers who work at the membership/merchandise tables, the sound crews, stage set-up crews, and the family concert make Folk Fest possible. We owe all of you a huge thank you for making the Alaska Folk Festival such a success! At the risk of leaving someone out, we'd like to thank our volunteers. If you worked but are not listed, please know that we appreciate your efforts as well.

Membership/Merchandise Table Volunteers: Cathie Allen, Rai Behnert, Sue Behnert, Kris Benson, Jo Boehme, Rachel Byrd, Bob Coghill, Paul Davis, Paul Disdier, Rich Edwards, Nancy Fenton, Dana Gower, Kirska Hughes-Skandijs, David Job, Catherine Johnson, Debby Johnson, Barbara Kelly-Page, James Kelly, Rachel Kelly, Shauna Larsen, Joyce Levine, Sharon Lowe, Maria Mattson, Carrie McVey, Mary Miller, Jeannie Monk, David Nickerson, Barb Pavitt, Mary Rikken, Lynne Stevens, Phil Stewart, Libby Stringer, Kate Troll, Mike Truax, Bill Vajda, Marinka Vangelder, Joni Waller, Laura Wallrath, Rhonda Ward, Ardyne Womack, and Brenda Wright.

Sound Technician and Stage Set-Up Volunteers: Ron Antaya, Jo Boehme, Koren Bosworth, Sally Burch, Greg Burger, Marian Call, Bing Carrillo, John Church, Sally Donaldson, Hailey Doss, Ellen Eberhart, Lynette Ensor, Axel Gilliam, Bill Hanson, Mark Heard, Hiram Henry, John Herchenrider, Erik Hopkins, Debby Johnson, Sam Jordan, Sofia Jordan, Megan Kemp, Bob Laurie, Shana Laursen, Mark Lukey, Dima Lukinykh, Mark Millard, Andy Miller, Andrii Olefirenko, Tom Paul, Frankie Pillifant, Mike Rentel, Don Rudolph, Carl Schrader, Francie Schrup, Ellie Sharman, Brian Slusark, Reber Stein, Lynne Stevens, Jeanne Stolberg, Libby Stringer, Dave Thielk, Erin Tilly, Terry Toon, Dennis Townsend, Mike Truax, Lee Walling, Lois Weston, and NeNe Wolfe.

Family Concert Volunteers and Performers: Set up and Sound: John Laskey; MC: Geoff Kirsch; Performers: Robin Hopper, Geoff Kirsch, Margie McWilliams, and the Woosh.ji.een Dance Group led by Lyle and Kolene James. Many thanks for an amazing, interactive family concert to a packed hall!

Enjoy Folk Music Year Round

Upcoming Contra Dance Schedule

All dances 7:30 to 11:00 pm
St. Ann's Parish Hall (5th and Gold St.)
Juneaucontras.org

<u>Date</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Caller</u>
11/24	Full Circle	Odette Edgar
12/16	Rumblefish	Tom Paul
12/31	Happy to Be Here	TBA

Gold Street Music

Next Date: 12/2
Resurrection Lutheran Church (740 W. 10th St.)
\$5 at the door

Gold Street Music is a showcase of live local music, held monthly at the Resurrection Lutheran Church in downtown Juneau. For more information about this event, or to sign up to perform, please call Elva at 500-4550 or Terry T at 364-3398.



Alaska Folk Festival

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<http://www.akfolkfest.org/>

www.facebook.com/AkFolkFest

General Email: info@alaskafolkfestival.org

Membership: membership@akfolkfest.org

Promotions: promotions@akfolkfest.org

Board of Directors

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