

Alaska Folk Festival

PO Box 21748

Juneau, AK 99802-1748

www.akfolkfest.org

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Monthly Newsletter

November 2023, Festival 49

Don't Forget!

49th Annual Festival:

April 8-14, 2024
Centennial Hall,
Juneau, Alaska

Online Store is Open!

shop.akfolkfest.org

Great stocking stuffers!

Everything is on sale.

Alaska Folk Festival Membership Form

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

NAME _____
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Newsletter - we're going green!

Unless you specifically request it, we'll email all future newsletters to you!

EMAIL _____
 PRINT (send to mailing address)

Please select your membership level and write your desired donation amount.

BENEFACTOR (\$500+) \$ _____
 PATRON (\$150 - \$499) \$ _____
 FRIEND (\$50 - \$149) \$ _____
 MEMBER (\$25 - \$49) \$ _____
 PAY AS YOU CAN \$ _____

List me in the program as:

Anonymous

NEW! YOUR DONATION ONLINE CAN NOW BE RECURRING! Never forget to renew again! Visit www.akfolkfest.org to make your contribution online. If you prefer paper, please fully complete this form and mail back to: Alaska Folk Festival, PO Box 21748, Juneau AK 99802

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exp: ___ / ___ cvc: ___ ZIP _____

Signature: _____

About the Board

Alaska Folk Festival

PO Box 21748, Juneau AK 99802-1748

www.akfolkfest.org

General: info@akfolkfest.org

Membership: membership@akfolkfest.org

Board of Directors

President Andrew Heist (exp. 2024)

Vice President Josh Fortenbery (exp. 2026)

Treasurer Dylan Proudfoot (exp. 2025)

Secretary Hiram Henry (exp. 2024)

Board Member Tessany Alrich (exp. 2026)

Board Member Annie Bartholomew (exp. 2026)

Board Member Reber Stein (exp. 2024)

Board Member Meghan Chambers (exp. 2025)

Board Member Jack Fontanella (exp. 2025)

Board Meetings

6:00pm, JACC Gallery

Tues Dec 5	Tues Mar 5
Tues Jan 9	Tues Mar 12
Tues Jan 23	Tues Mar 19
Tues Feb 6	Tues Mar 26
Tues Feb 20	Tues April 2

2024 Guest Artist: Laurie Lewis



We are thrilled to announce that the Guest Artist for the 49th Alaska Folk Festival will be Laurie Lewis! She

will be coming to Juneau with her Bluegrass Band, The Right Hands. Grammy winning artist Laurie Lewis is a California legend who has a long and distinguished history in Bluegrass and Americana music. For nearly four decades, she has gathered fans and honors for her powerful and emotive voice and her versatile, dynamic songwriting. Laurie has shown how a woman can blend into any part of the classic bluegrass singing trio, and how a great voice could move fluidly between bluegrass and other types of music. She has shown how a female fiddler could emulate the strength and grit of the early bluegrass

musicians and how a Californian can appeal to traditional bluegrass audiences, as well as winning acclaim in the worlds of Americana and folk music.

Although she has played roots music since her teenage years and performed in various bands from her early 20s, it wasn't until she was 36 that Laurie decided to venture out on her own. Her solo recording, *Restless Rambling Heart*, introduced the national music audience to Laurie's talents and versatility. The CD, produced by Tim O'Brien, features seven originals and showcases her stunning vocal range and control. Since that time, Laurie has twice been named Female Vocalist of the Year by the International Bluegrass Music Association, and won Song of the Year for her rendition of the now-standard "Who Will Watch the Home Place?" She has collaborated on numerous other award-winning recordings.

While steeped in the bluegrass tradition, Laurie's songwriting demonstrates her ability to surpass the limitations of that genre. Her works reflect her wide range of influences: from old time and country to Tin Pan Alley, jazz standards and early rock 'n roll.

Throughout her lengthy and varied career, Laurie has been an inspiration and a ground-breaker – across genres, across geography and across gender barriers. We are so proud to welcome her to The Alaska Folk Festival.





A Quarterly Folk Music Round Up

It's been a year since my last Column! Already!

First I'd like to put my Dance Master hat on and remind all the bands and callers out there that we need you at the 2024 AFF. We were a little short last year so please think about putting in an application for this coming year's dances. It's a 45 minute set and it's great fun! And dancers we need you too! Come to Juneau and join the fun!

Now, on to the music. (All of these can be found on all the streaming services but I will give you a link to buy just in case and so you can see the whole album at a glance.) There have been some great releases recently and here are a few that have caught my ear:

Our 2023 guests *Lone Piñon* have recently released [Quatro Vidas](#). Of course it's great! Check it out! Another one of our recent guests, *Los Texmaniacs* have a new album with L.A. based singer *La Marisoul*, called [Corazones y Canciones](#). Great singing! And while we are talking about recent guest artists, George Jackson, fiddler with Jake Blount's AFF band, has a new one called [George Jackson's Local Trio](#) with two friends on banjo and bass. It's old time but they really take it out there. At times you might find yourself asking, "Is this Old Time?" Another progressive old time project comes out of Canada. Check out this youtube link for all you need to know about [Adeline](#). While we are on the subject of old time, hailing from South Carolina, Kristen Harris and Borger Wiggle has a new one called [Borger Wiggle](#). It's named after a tune by Texas fiddler Eck Robinson and features many of his tunes.

Two Bluegrass projects also make this list. If you haven't heard of Molly Tuttle and Golden Highway, check out [City of Gold](#). All Molly's projects feature great songs, great writing and superb musicianship, and this one is no different. The bluegrass supergroup [Mighty Poplar](#) have a modern sound that is worth checking out.

Finally, Bluegrass and Old Time great Alice Gerrard has been really productive during this Covid period, but her most recently released [Sun to Sun](#) might be her best work since Hazel and Alice days. She is helped out by some talented old time friends including fiddler Tatiana Hargreaves. Don't miss this one.

That's it for now. If you are looking to listen to this kind of music, you should point your browser to [krnn.org](#) every Saturday from Noon-2:00 Alaska Time, where on the 3rd Saturday of the month I will be in charge of the music. See you at the Festival!

Jack Fontanella, Board Member

Celebrating Aak'w Rock

The Alaska Folk Festival congratulates and applauds the important work of Tlingit and Haida and the Juneau Arts & Humanities Council in a very successful first year in-person at Aak'w Rock! Read more from the organizers below:

In September, Aak'w Rock ushered in a shift in perspective of what Indigenous music sounds like. This music festival, co-hosted by Tlingit & Haida and the Juneau Arts & Humanities Council, spanned three days across three venues, welcomed hundreds of guests, and showcased over 70 international Indigenous artists. Being the only Indigenous music festival in the country, Aak'w Rock has an ongoing mission to welcome Indigenous Excellence to the mainstage, to exhibit the full depth and breadth of what these artists have to offer.

The festival is held biennially on alternating years with Celebration. Festival planners are very happy with the level of success achieved in the first in-person instance of Aak'w Rock, and look forward to hosting new iterations in coming years. If you missed out this time around, the full festival will be broadcast through KTOO in the near future - stay tuned!



For more information, visit <https://aakwrockfest.com>

Welcome (back), Tessany!



I was born into a musical family where song circles and being surrounded by amazing musicians was the norm. I am back to serve on the Folk Festival Board for the second time because I love the infusion of live music and festivities after the cold, dark winter, and I appreciate being able to share the joy of music I've experienced my whole life in the accessible format of the free to all Alaska Folk Festival.

Tessany Alrich, Board Member