

Alaska Folk Festival

PO Box 21748

Juneau, AK 99802-1748

www.akfolkfest.org

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Monthly Newsletter

January 2025, Festival 50: April 07-13, 2025

Feb 28

5:00pm

Performer

Applications Due

APPLY ONLINE AT WWW.AKFOLKFEST.ORG.

IMPORTANT APPLICATION INFORMATION

- February 28, 5pm AKT is a **hard deadline**. This is IN OUR HANDS (not postmarked). The earlier we receive your application, the better. Don't be the unfortunate musician with a late application that we cannot accept! Note: **We expect a record number of applications this year**, and anticipate the waitlist being longer than usual. Applicants who appear on multiple applications may receive lower priority once one of their groups is assigned to a performance slot.
- When applying online, your submitted information will be immediately entered into our database and a confirmation email will be sent back to you - this is for your records only. You cannot make changes after you submit the form, so prepare your entries carefully ahead of time.
- You are **REQUIRED** to submit a description.
- We will review all applications the week after the deadline, after which we put together a preliminary schedule. When finalized, the draft schedule is sent to all applicants **via email**. This schedule is your confirmation that you have received a slot. If you have any questions concerning this process, feel free to email us at: info@akfolkfest.org

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 _____
MAILING _____
CITY / ST _____
ZIP _____
EMAIL _____

Newsletter - we're going green!

We email all our newsletters, unless you specifically request paper!

- 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

Payment Method

- CHECK ENCLOSED
 CASH ENCLOSED
 CREDIT CARD:

exp: ___ / ___ cvc: ___ ZIP _____

Signature: _____

Important Dates

50th Annual Festival

Monday, April 07, to
Sunday, April 13

Centennial Hall
Juneau, AK

Annual Meeting: Friday, April 11, 5pm JACC

Open to all current AFF members!
Agenda items include: a short summary of the year presented by Board Officers, Officer elections, and time for comments and questions from all members.
Free food and drinks will be provided. Please attend - we need your voice and your vote!

Program Ads due March 1

Book your advertising with us now (read more on p.6)!

Reserve your ad anytime.

Final artwork due end of day, Friday, March 1 to:
ads@akfolkfest.org

A Letter from the President

FIFTY... YEARS... While its beginning as a single-day gathering in the halls of the State Museum were not the full-blown, week-long event we have all come to love – it's just astounding that this scrappy little community-centered and volunteer-powered musical gathering is preparing to mark its Golden Anniversary!

This month marks my twentieth year living in Alaska and I'm so glad that I've attended every festival in that time. Thankfully, I'm able to regularly check in with some of the folks who started and grew this festival from its earliest days and, while the festival has certainly evolved and changed through the years, the overwhelming sentiment is that it still retains its original spirit and core mission, and has only gotten better through the years.

In addition to my role within the Alaska Folk Festival, music is a huge part of my life. I've been lucky enough to travel around the United States and abroad to perform in and participate in a good number of music festivals. I think it goes without saying that I've never found anything as special as AFF, but the thing that has been so surprising – especially in the last decade or so – is that no matter where I go, musicians and festival producers alike have heard about our unique 'little' festival in Juneau, and they've heard that it's AMAZING. And they want to come.

The reason I bring this up is that there is one single element that makes this festival so special. It is OUR MEMBERS. The model of this festival could never be sustainable without the support and involvement of our amazing membership. The format of this festival is unlike any other. We are a 100% community-funded and volunteer driven festival. The magic of having the opportunity – no matter who you are – to perform a 15-minute set on the main stage in front of a crowd at Centennial Hall would simply not exist if we did not have the membership model that sustains us. This year, when we celebrate 50 years of AFF, what we are really celebrating is the continued involvement and support from all of our members – THANK YOU for getting us this far!!

We tried to pull out all the stops this year and bring an absolutely world-class Guest Artist in Rhiannon Giddens & Dirk Powell as well as a second-to-none dance band in Deke Dickerson and his Western Swing All-Stars. The budget for this festival is larger than a typical year and we have been planning for it. One big factor in having the security to put on a bigger-than-usual program is the creation and continued growth of our AFF Legacy Fund with The Juneau Community Foundation. We are so grateful to all of our members who have established gifts through this fund – you are the reason that we will make it to AFF 100. If AFF has been an important part of your life, as it has in mine, please consider an additional gift this year and including AFF in your legacy planning.

We hope you're as excited as we are for this year's festival. We can't wait to see your smiling faces at Centennial Hall in April!

Andrew Heist
President

2025 ALASKA FOLK FESTIVAL GUEST ARTIST:

Rhiannon Giddens with Dirk Powell



Photo: Ebru Yildiz

We are SO EXCITED to announce that the Guest Artist for the 50th Alaska Folk Festival will be Rhiannon Giddens and Dirk Powell! Rhiannon is no stranger to AFF – she performed as part of the unforgettable Carolina Chocolate Drops nearly twenty years ago at AFF 33. And, according to Dirk, he attended the festival, “sometime in the 1980s” and has wanted to come back to perform ever since.

Rhiannon Giddens has made a singular, iconic career out of stretching her brand of folk music, with its miles-deep historical roots and contemporary sensibilities, into just about every field imaginable. A two-time GRAMMY Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning singer and instrumentalist, MacArthur “Genius” grant recipient, and composer of opera, ballet, and film, Giddens has centered her work around the mission of lifting up people whose contributions to American musical history have previously been overlooked or erased, and advocating for a more accurate understanding

of the country’s musical origins through art. As Pitchfork once said, “few artists are so fearless and so ravenous in their exploration”—a journey that has led to NPR naming her one of its 25 Most Influential Women Musicians of the 21st Century and to American Songwriter calling her “one of the most important musical minds currently walking the planet.”

Dirk Powell is known as a “musician’s musician” in the circle of American roots music and beyond. He learned banjo and fiddle from his Kentucky grandfather, James Clarence Hay, and has been a part of the thriving Cajun/Creole music community in Louisiana since his early 20s. He has toured and recorded with musicians such as Joan Baez, Rhiannon Giddens, Eric Clapton, Buddy Miller, Loretta Lynn, and Levon Helm, while his contribution to film has found him collaborating with directors like Anthony Minghella (“Cold Mountain”), Ang Lee (“Ride with the Devil”), and Spike Lee (“Bamboozled”). His solo records, which often combine a traditional foundation with a wide-ranging commitment to emotion and original songs, have had impact around the globe. His original song “Waterbound” has been recorded over 100 times. He is also in demand as a producer and owns his own studio, the Cypress House, on the banks of Bayou Teche near Breaux Bridge, Louisiana.



Photo: Terri Fensel

2025 POSTER ARTIST:

Crystal Worl



Crystal Kaakeeyáa Rose

Demientieff Worl is Athabascan, Filipino, and Tlingit from Raven moiety, Sockeye Clan, from the Raven House. She is Deg Hit'an Athabascan from Fairbanks Alaska.

Crystal is a talented multidisciplinary artist based in Juneau, Alaska. She draws inspiration from her cultural roots and the natural world around her. Worl's artwork is diverse, ranging from Tlingit Northwest Coast design to contemporary multimedia pieces. Her work often explores themes of identity, connection to land, and the interplay between traditional and modern ways of life. In addition to creating art, Worl is also an advocate for Indigenous rights and works to promote cultural awareness and understanding through her art. Her work has been exhibited in galleries and museums around the world and she continues to be a prominent voice in the Indigenous art community.

Crystal lives in Juneau, Alaska, and is co-owner and co-designer of Trickster Company with her brother Rico Worl.

2025 GUEST DANCE BAND:

Deke Dickerson Western Swing All-Stars

The Alaska Folk Festival celebrates 50 years of dance music with a one-of-kind guest dance band led by Roots music luminary **Deke Dickerson**. The Deke Dickerson Western Swing All-Stars combines veteran West Coast and Texas musicians well-versed in the style made famous by Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys, Tex Williams and his Western Caravan, and Asleep at the Wheel.

Musicians include bassist Brad Fordham and drummer Lisa Pankratz (who have worked with Dave Alvin, Jerry Jeff Walker, and Billy Joe Shaver), fiddle player Katie Shore (who has worked with Asleep at the Wheel and scores of other Texas country acts), pedal steel guitarist Rusty Blake (from the Lucky Stars), and lead guitarist Ian Miller (of the Barn Door Slammers). Bring your dancing shoes for this special occasion of Western Swing music fit for a 50th anniversary!



2025 GUEST CALLER:

Suzanne Girardot



Suzanne Girardot is known for her enthusiastic, clear, and concise calling, and gets everyone moving and smiling before they know it. She is a caller, musician, and step dancer who has been calling and teaching dance around the country since 1981. Dancers all over the country love her diverse selection of contras and squares. More recently, she has added dances in the Quebecois tradition to her repertoire, and also plays old-time and Quebecois music on the fiddle. Along with calling contras and squares, Suzanne is a step dancer, teaching and performing Appalachian clogging, tap, and Quebecois step dancing. Her relaxed teaching style breaks steps down so everyone can leave the workshop with a sense of fun and accomplishment.

Board of Directors

President Andrew Heist (exp. 2027)
Vice President Josh Fortenbery (exp. 2026)
Treasurer Dylan Proudfoot (exp. 2025)
Secretary Hiram Henry (exp. 2027)
Board Member Reber Stein (exp. 2027)
Board Member Meghan Chambers (exp. 2025)
Board Member Jack Fontanella (exp. 2025)
Board Member Annie Bartholomew (exp. 2026)
Board Member Tessany Alrich (exp. 2026)

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General: info@akfolkfest.org

Membership: membership@akfolkfest.org

Ads: ads@akfolkfest.org

Pssst! Hotel Discount Available!

Thank you to the Baranof Hotel for offering a discount room block for Folk Fest 2025.

Group: Folkfest

Arrival: April 6, 2025

Departure: April 14, 2025

Deadline to Book: March 6, 2025

Booking link: https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.02019.htm

Volunteer at the 2025 Festival!

We couldn't do it without YOU!

As a grassroots festival, volunteer effort is paramount to a successful week! If you plan to be a die-hard audience member, hit the dance floor, or jam in the lobbies, please consider **signing up as a volunteer**. Volunteer jobs range from half to a full evening, so you can often still attend the festival the other half of the night! We welcome new volunteers, with a training workshop Sunday before the Festival Starts. Jobs range from selling merchandise, registering new members, running recording equipment, setting up microphones as stage crew, hosting a dance, being a stage manager, and more. Take your pick! Be a part of what makes Alaska Folk Festival the best week of the year in Juneau.

Volunteering keeps the cost of the festival low enough that it is always offered free of charge! And, of course, you can sign up for more than one time during the week, and/or more than one job.

Sign Up Today:

www.akfolkfest.org and fill out our hand-dandy volunteer form.

Advertise in the AFF Program! (due 3/1/25).

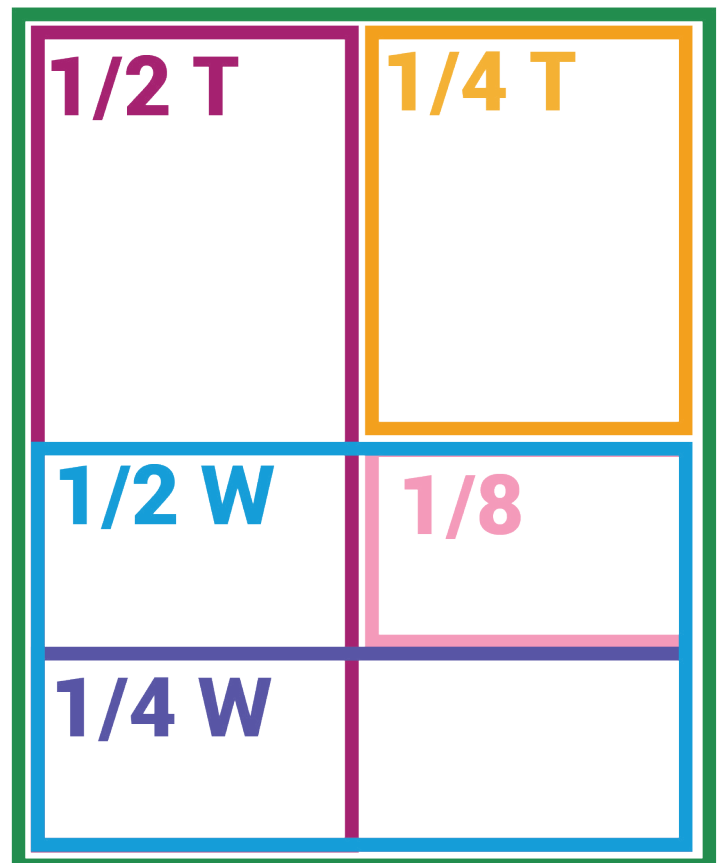
The Alaska Folk Festival provides one week of community-based performances, workshops, and connection to Juneau locals and visitors, as well as significant increases in local business! Exact viewership of the program is difficult to predict, but we estimate 5,000 - 6,000 views over the week, and 2,000 printed programs. The Alaska Folk Festival is always free, and your financial support as an advertiser is crucial in maintaining our mission. Reserve an ad space today!

Do you have donated services, equipment, or cash you'd like to offer as in-kind trade for ad space? Let us know! All trade is dollar-for-dollar value, rounding up to the nearest appropriate ad size. For example, \$157.00 in donated services would qualify for a quarter-page black & white ad.

AD SPECS & NOTES:

- All artwork should be high-resolution for print (300dpi).
- File preferences: PDF or TIFF.
- Conversion of a low-res JPG to PDF or TIFF will not magically result in a high-res file. Please reach out if you need help with file types or ad creation.
- You may reserve an ad at anytime by emailing ads@akfolkfest.org with your name & ad size.
- Final artwork is due by end of day **Saturday, March 1, 2025, emailed to ads@akfolkfest.org**.
- Do you need assistance with ad creation? AFF is happy to help you design for an additional fee. Design requests must be made by Sunday, February 16.

AD SIZE	DIMENSIONS	PRICE
Full Page	6"w x 7.5"t 1800x2250 px	\$900 color \$750 b&w
1/2 Page Wide	6.0"w x 3.69"t 1800x1107 px	\$475 color \$375b&w
1/2 Page Tall	2.94"w x 7.5" t 882x2250 px	\$475 color \$375 b&w
1/4 Page Wide	6.0"w x 1.82"t 1800x546 px	\$250 color \$175 b&w
1/4 Page Tall	3.69"w x 2.94"t 1107x882 px	\$250 color \$175 b&w
1/8 Page	2.94"w x 1.82" t 882x546 px	\$125 color \$90 b&w



FULL