

Alaska Folk Festival

PO Box 21748

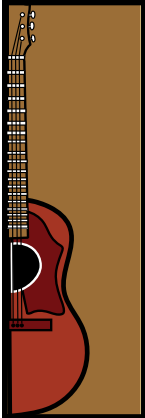
Juneau, AK 99802-1748

www.akfolkfest.org

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Thank You, Volunteers!

The Alaska Folk Festival is made possible purely from the incredible and immense volunteer effort that supports this week-long celebration of music in Juneau. Without volunteers, the Festival simply would not be. The Board humbly thanks and acknowledges the talent, effort, and time put in by our community members from near and far. If we accidentally omitted your name, sincere apologies - spreadsheets never capture full participation, nor the infectious community spirit propelling us forward every year! Allie Rosen, Anne Fuller, Ariel Svetlik, Ben Hohenstatt, Betsy Jacobs, Bob Sauerteig, Brenda Buffy Holdener, Brock and Chance Tabor, Callie Connerton, Carol Race, Ceann Murphy, Chris Bieri, Christy Ciambor, Collette Costa, Dan Cannon, Dan Kirkwood, David Fure, Dennis Hoffman, Dennis Townsend, Elizabeth Ekins, Ellie Sharmen, Emily Chapel, Emily Kane, Erin Coenen, Erin Heist, Evan Coombs, Frankie Pillifant, George Gianakopoulos, Greta Healy, Hannah Bailey, Hannah Schlosstein, Heather Parker, Howie Schwartz, Ian Putnam, Jacob Sweeney, Jane Hale, Jeff Mason, Jenny, Jess Parks, Jess Stanley, Jim Pfeifferberger, Jim Powell, Jon Heifitz, Julia Nave, Kate Flynn, Katie Russel, Kelsey Riker, Kevin Miller, Kirsa Hughes-Skandijis, Koren Bosworth, Leah LaBar, Liz Eilers, Liz Rao, Lizzie S, Lois Weston, Loren T, Lu Seapy, Makiah Jensen, Maressa Jensen, Margearet Shorey, Margeaux Ljungberg, Marian Call, Mark Lukey, Mark Ridgway, Matthew Puma, Max Blust, Meg Schutt, Mike Janes, Natalie W, Nate Collins, Nick Murray, Nicole Lantz, Nora Harper, Norm Cohen, Odin Brudie, Patrick Webb, Patrick Wojtala, Paul Andrea, Paul Clements, Peggy F, Rachel Brown, Rachel Weston, Robert Bowles, Robyn Anderson, Ron Reda, Ryan O'Shaughnessy, Sarah & Carly Cohen, Sarah Wallace, Sergei Morosan, Stephen Warta, Sue Badilla, Sue Behnert, Susan Cox, Taylor Vidic, Theresa Miller, Tim Borden, Tony Schwarz, Travis Koski, Wilbur Burge, Ziya Johnstone, and anyone else we may have missed!

Alaska Folk Festival Membership Form

We encourage all members to use our NEW online membership portal:

www.akfolkfest.org/shop/membership

NAME _____

MAILING _____

CITY / ST _____

ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

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

If renewing via mail, please send to:

Alaska Folk Festival, PO Box 21748, Juneau AK 99802

Newsletter - we're going green!

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

☐ EMAIL _____

☐ PRINT (send to mailing address)

Payment Method

☐ CHECK ENCLOSED

☐ CASH ENCLOSED

☐ CREDIT CARD:

exp: ____ / ____ cvc: ____ ZIP ____

Signature: _____

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).

SEASON

51 Summer
2025

Quarterly Newsletter

CHEERS TO A SUCCESSFUL 2025 FESTIVAL!

Thank you to all who made the 50th Annual Alaska Folk Festival successful! It was an amazing showout, and we can't wait to get ready to celebrate 50 years!



SAVE THE DATE

April 06 - 12, 2026
Juneau, Alaska

Welcome On Board



Hannah Bailey

Hannah grew up on the east coast where she played music alongside her sisters and with several local bands. She loved playing at nursing homes, local fairs, and family gatherings as a kid, but music eventually lost priority and she stopped playing through college. It was attending the 2019 Alaska Folk Festival that inspired her to pick up her guitar again. Since then, she has greatly enjoyed volunteering during Folk Fest and is excited to take an active role for this event, hoping to inspire musicians like her to just start playing. Outside of volunteering she can often be found running, hiking, and generally adventuring in the mountains. She is always hoping to peep a look at a marmot, porcupine, whale, or any of the countless critters around! She is looking forward to working on this board and is grateful for this opportunity to serve her community.



Hannah Wilson

Hannah grew up in Juneau, attending her first Alaska Folk Festival while still in her mom's belly and has been an Alaska Folk Festival enthusiast since she could crawl around in front of the stage. She hasn't missed too many Folk Fests since. She performed in her first Festival with preschool class singalongs and eventually added fiddle to her repertoire. After moving back home to Juneau, she has enjoyed playing and singing in several bands and jamming with friends. In joining the board, she's thrilled to be able to support everyone who comes together to make and share music during Juneau's most magical week of the year. When she's not thinking about folk music, she's busy playing in the mountains, gardening, or petting her dog. While her dog is ambivalent about Folk Fest, he enjoys being together with his family and friends, which is kind of like folk music.

Board of Directors

President Josh Fortenbery (exp. 2027)

Vice President Meghan Chambers (exp. 2028)

Treasurer Dylan Proudfoot (exp. 2028)

Secretary Hiram Henry (exp. 2027)

Board Member Reber Stein (exp. 2027)

Board Member Annie Bartholomew (exp. 2026)

Board Member Tessany Alrich (exp. 2026)

Board Member Hannah Bailey (exp. 2028)

Board Member Hannah Wilson (exp. 2026)

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General: info@akfolkfest.org

Membership: membership@akfolkfest.org

Letter from the President

Several months later, I'm still basking in the glow of a successful FIFTIETH annual Alaska Folk Festival. A half-century after the inaugural event—a modest local gathering in the Alaska State Museum—the Alaska Folk Festival has become a cultural experience unlike any other in the world. Yet, the Festival's core values remain unchanged: it is and always will be a free event that celebrates community and the intrinsic value of music and dancing, organized and run by volunteers.

It's clear to me that enthusiasm for the Festival has not waned a bit—we have more members than ever and we received a record number of performer applications this year. Those applications led to nine incredible concerts, replete with long-time festival favorites and some performers gracing the Centennial Hall stage for the very first time. Over at the Juneau Arts and Culture Center, we were treated to dances featuring our guest caller, Suzanne Girardot, as well as two rollicking sets from our guest dance band, The Deke Dickerson Western Swing All-Stars. And how about Rhiannon Giddens and Dirk Powell? Not only did they grace us with two powerful performances on the main stage, their workshops were so rich and moving they brought more than one attendee to tears.

As you may have noticed, we captured much of the Festival on video this year after receiving a major grant from the City and Borough of Juneau to produce a documentary celebrating our fiftieth year. I can't wait to share it with you! I couldn't have asked for a better way to commemorate the Alaska Folk Festival's golden anniversary, and feel so fortunate we were able to spend a week celebrating joy and music in these tumultuous times.

One of the biggest reasons we had such an incredible festival is because of the Herculean efforts of our outgoing president, my predecessor, Andrew Heist. We have him to thank for scheduling this year's Guest Artist, one more feather in his cap after a truly stellar tenure. From shepherding the Festival through the pandemic, finding alternative venues while Centennial Hall was under construction, to rescheduling an entire weekend of concerts to account for a volcanic eruption, Andrew donated countless hours of his time with a smile, embodying the spirit of the Alaska Folk Festival at every turn and leaving me with some massive shoes to fill. While we'll still see him around Centennial Hall in the years to come, Andrew will probably get a little more sleep during the Festival going forward. On behalf of the Board, I want to express our endless gratitude for a tough job done to perfection. And Andrew, if you're reading this, know that I already have you on my list of volunteers for next year, so you're not completely off the hook.

Speaking of bittersweet goodbyes, our resident radio DJ, dance master, and all-around great guy Jack Fontanella is also leaving the board after finishing his term. During his recent time on the board, Jack helped introduce many kids from the Juneau school district to called dances by helping organize dances for the Any Given Child program. And if you have had any fun in the dance hall over the last few years or found a great new artist through his newsletter column—Jack's Tracks—you understand what an asset he was to the Board. He'll be greatly missed, though like Andrew I know he's looking forward to spending more time playing music at future festivals. But endings mean new beginnings—we're thrilled to welcome Hannah Bailey and Hannah Wilson to the board. You can read their short introductions on the previous page.

As for me, I'm honored and excited to take on my new role as we start planning for the 51st Festival. Until then, please stay in touch with the board and one another—I think we'll all need to find moments of Folk Fest magic, camaraderie, and kindness this year. I'll see you all back here next April. Here's to fifty more years!

Josh Fortenbery
Alaska Folk Festival President

Call for Art: AFF 51 Poster

The Alaska Folk Festival is seeking the next poster artist for the 2026 Festival. Interested artists should submit a sketch of their proposed poster idea as well as several prior work samples. All media is welcome, although the design needs to be easily adjusted or transferrable for the screenprinting process necessary for merchandise. Artist compensation is \$600. Submissions are due October 1, 2025. Read more about the call for art and apply here: www.akfolkfest.org

Festival Honored with JCF Award, Rotary Award



The Alaska Folk Festival was one of twenty organizations awarded with a generous gift from the Juneau Community Foundation (JCF). Over \$100,000 was distributed among the selected non-profits in recognition of JCF's 25th anniversary. Funding for these grants was made possible by the Foundation's Arts & Culture Community Impact Fund, along with generous support from the Blackwell, Gaguine, Akiyama Family, and Margaret Frans Brady Donor Advised Funds and the Foundation's Youth & Education Community Impact Fund. The Folk Festival is honored to be a recipient of this one-time gift, and thrilled to be

recognized for the impact the Festival adds to the local and regional arts & culture sector. Pictured above are representatives of all receiving organizations, as well as the Juneau Community Foundation and Alaska State Council on the Arts. Read more at www.juneaucf.org.

The Alaska Folk Festival was also recently honored with the 2025 Rotary District Conference's Volunteer Service Award. In the nominator's opening remarks, Rotary member Jamie Waste emphasized AFF's exemplary work embodying their motto of *Service Above Self*. He noted that while the festival has grown tremendously in its 50 year history, it continues to remain a palpably grassroots-focused, hometown festival. During the week of the festival, downtown is abuzz, and people walk around daily wishing each other a "Happy Folk Festival." Rotary applauded the power of volunteerism to do good things in hometowns, and around the world. AFF President Josh Fortenbery and Vice President Meghan Chambers graciously accepted the award on behalf of the Board and the broader Folk Festival community.



Zander Griffith on bass while Juneau's Doug Bridges solos during a special set at the sold-out AFF Fall Fundraiser featuring Los Angeles band The Centuries at the JACC on September 19.



Alaska Youth Choir opens the 50th Annual Festival Monday evening.



Coffee & Jam dancers and band.



Full house during AFF 50 Guest Artist Rhiannon Giddens' and Dirk Powell's Sunday night set.



North Country Cajun Club plays the JACC Dance Stage.

