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# Quarterly Newsletter

December 2025

## ALASKA FOLK FESTIVAL

Festival 51: April 6-12, 2026<sup>♦</sup>

# ANNOUNCING AFF 51 GUESTS

## Willi Carlisle 2026 Guest Artist

Folksinger Willi Carlisle holds tight the conviction that love is bigger than hate, and no one is expendable. Carlisle's music has always been a dance between absurdity, spectacle, and philosophy. On his fourth studio album, *Winged Victory*, Carlisle returns with his signature blend of traditionally-rooted folk music and kaleidoscope of oddball characters to confer with his core tenets in more overt and provocative ways.

Carlisle delivers *Victory* as the next chapter in his long-running direct address to the hope that by understanding our collective suffering we might be free of it. He's intent on creating art and a well-rounded life in a broken world. The idea began with 2022's *Peculiar, Missouri* when Carlisle proclaimed "your heart's a big tent, everybody gets in." After gathering together all the world's weirdos and misfits under the big tent, with 2024's *Critterland*, Carlisle let them loose into the world. Now, on *Winged Victory*, they speak for themselves, unencumbered by social expectations.

*Victory*, Carlisle's first self-produced album, was released on June 27, 2025



via Signature Sounds. It both indulges a few of his wildest dreams (including a version of Richard Thompson's "Beeswing," among several traditional folk song covers) and feels like the inevitable sequel to *Critterland*'s charismatic menagerie of chaos. Though occasionally raunchy, and routinely provocative, *Victory* is not afraid to make a spectacle for the sake of a point. *Victory* should be understood as a reflection. It revels in the beauty of tiny, monetarily-worthless moments and things, offering with them a consideration of our innate humanity.

# Savannah LeCornu

## 2026 Poster Artist

Savannah LeCornu is a self-taught artist from Ketchikan Alaska. She is Tsimshian, Haida, and Nimiipuu (Nez Perce). Savannah primarily draws and paints in digital and traditional formats but she also beads. She works in formline and plateau art styles and strives to create modern, accessible art that celebrates indigenous peoples.

She comes from multiple tribes and works in the art forms of both her northern coastal and plateau roots, often combining them. Through vibrant colors, humorous titles, modern elements and traditional shapes she strives to create art that reflects her unique view and invites the audience to rethink the preconceived notions they may have about Indigenous peoples and art. Savannah received her B.A in performing arts from Western Washington University, her concentrations were in lighting design and playwriting.

Savannah was the recipient of the Native American Fellowship from Ucross where she completed a residency in Spring of 2022. She was the recipient of the Harpo Foundation Fellowship for Native American Artists from the Vermont Studio Center where she completed a residency in Fall of 2023. In Fall of 2025 she completed a residency with Ma's House,



a BIPOC only artist residency, and with Sealaska Heritage Institute as a demonstrating artist.

Her work has been displayed in the Columbia City Gallery (Seattle), the Ucross Art Gallery (Wyoming), The Yellowstone Art Museum (Montana), the Golden History Museum (Colorado), and currently in the Tread of Pioneers Museum (Colorado).

You can find more of Savannah's work at [www.etsy.com/shop/savannahpantsart](https://www.etsy.com/shop/savannahpantsart) or by following her Instagram (@savannahpants).

## **Want to contribute your art to AFF 51?**

We are still looking for a main stage backdrop artist for this year's festival! If interested, please email us at [info@akfolkfest.org](mailto:info@akfolkfest.org).

## Connor Maguire

### 2026 Guest Caller

Connor Maguire found old time music through the various harvest dances at local farms during his time as a vegetable farmer. He thought “that looks fun” and thus has shifted his gosh darn life to the “cultural” component of agriculture in hopes to bring these agrarian traditions into the fold of contemporary American society. He is an old time fiddler, songster and square dance caller based in the San Francisco Bay Area and has been a featured caller at Olympia Old Time Festival, Mud City Old Time Social and the Berkeley Old time Gathering.



## The Red Hots

### 2026 Guest Dance Band

The Alaska Folk Festival welcomes North Carolina Old Time legends, The Red Hots, as the 2026 Dance Band. The lineup features Joe Thrift (fiddle), Riley Baugus (guitar), Tom Riccio (banjo), and Steve Mason (bass).



# VOLUNTEER AT AFF 51

**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](http://www.akfolkfest.org) and fill out our handy-dandy volunteer form.

# RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Newsletter - we're going green!

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

☐ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ PRINT (send to mailing address)

**NEW! YOUR DONATION ONLINE CAN NOW BE RECURRING!** Never forget to renew again! Visit [www.akfolkfest.org](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_

# LODGING & IMPORTANT DATES

<p><b>Performer Applications Due March 6th</b></p> <p><b>Applications go live Jan. 16th</b></p> <p>March 6th, 5pm AKT is a hard deadline (RECEIVED, not postmarked). Apply online: <b><a href="http://www.akfolkfest.org">www.akfolkfest.org</a></b></p>	<p><b>Program Ads due March 1st</b></p> <p>Book your advertising with us now (read more on next page)! Reserve your ad anytime. Final artwork due end of day, Friday, March 1st to: <b><a href="mailto:ads@akfolkfest.org">ads@akfolkfest.org</a></b></p>	<p><b>Annual Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Friday, April 10, 5pm, JACC</b></p> <p>Open to all current AFF members! Agenda: summary of the year, Officer elections, and member questions. Free food and drinks!</p>	<p><b>51st Annual Festival</b></p> <p><b>Monday, April 06</b></p> <p><b>to</b></p> <p><b>Sunday, April 12</b></p> <p><b>Centennial Hall</b></p> <p><b>Juneau, AK</b></p>
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## AFF 51 Lodging Discounts & Info

Thank you to the **Baranof Hotel** for offering a discount room block for Folk Fest 2026!

**Group:** Folkfest

**Check-In:** Monday, April 6th

**Check-Out:** Tuesday, April 14th

**Booking Link:** [https://www.bestwestern.com/en\\_US/book/hotel-rooms.02019.html?groupId=7X6HV0K8](https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.02019.html?groupId=7X6HV0K8)

The **Driftwood Hotel** is currently undergoing renovations and will only be at  $\frac{1}{3}$  capacity during the festival. Rooms will be limited and book up fast. We are hoping to arrange a block rate, so please stay tuned.

As lodging costs continue to increase each year, we have heard interest from members about coordinating **homestay opportunities** for festival goers. While the AFF board does not have the capacity to take this on in addition to coordinating with hotels, we would love for a motivated member to do so. Please reach out to [info@akfolkfest.org](mailto:info@akfolkfest.org) if you are interested in leading this effort.

# 2026 PERFORMER INFORMATION

## APPLICATIONS DUE: MARCH 6TH @ 5 P.M.

APPLY ONLINE AT [WWW.AKFOLKFEST.ORG](http://WWW.AKFOLKFEST.ORG)

- **Applications will go live on January 16<sup>th</sup>**
- March 6th, 5pm AKT is a hard deadline (RECEIVED, not postmarked). The earlier we receive your application, the better. Don't be the unfortunate musician with a late application that we cannot accept! We expect a record number of applications this year. 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](mailto:info@akfolkfest.org).

# ADVERTISE IN THE AFF PROGRAM

## DUE MARCH 1, 2026

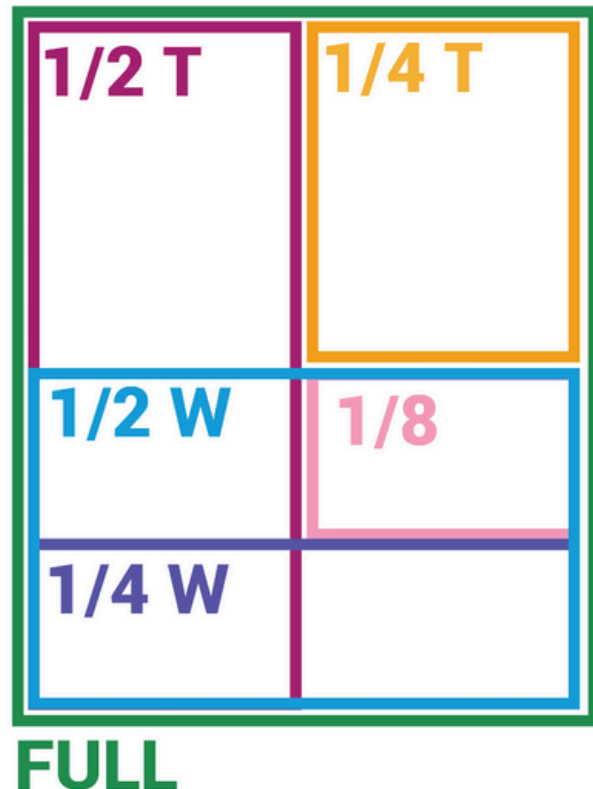
The Alaska Folk Festival provides a week of community-based performances, workshops, and connection to Juneau locals and visitors, as well as significant increases in local business! Exact viewership of the program is difficult to predict, but we estimate 5,000 - 6,000 views over the week, and 2,000 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-and-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 any time by emailing [ads@akfolkfest.org](mailto:ads@akfolkfest.org) with your name & ad size.
- Final artwork is due by end of day Sunday, March 1, 2026, emailed to [ads@akfolkfest.org](mailto: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 15.

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



# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

Juneau SOLD OUT the 2025 Alaska Folk Festival Fall Fundraiser this year, featuring AFF 50 favorites and Juneau newcomers, **The Centuries**. This electrifying three-piece band from Los Angeles couldn't get enough of our sweet, rainy little town and graciously came back to get us boogying in support of the Alaska Folk Festival.



Don't want to miss the next exciting AFF off-season event? Stay tuned for the world premiere of the Alaska Folk Festival documentary film coming to a theater near you in Spring 2026!

## 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)

## Alaska Folk Festival

**PO Box 21748, Juneau, Alaska  
99802-1748  
[www.akfolkfest.org](http://www.akfolkfest.org)**

**General:** [info@akfolkfest.org](mailto:info@akfolkfest.org)

**Membership:**  
[membership@akfolkfest.org](mailto:membership@akfolkfest.org)

**Ads:** [ads@akfolkfest.org](mailto:ads@akfolkfest.org)