

**December 2011
Newsletter**

**38th Annual
Alaska Folk Festival
April 9-15, 2012**

No-Show Guest Artist Fails to Return Deposit

Festival planners were excited last fall to book the talented musician J P Cormier to perform at last April's Alaska Folk Festival. Alas, it was not to be. A contract was signed and deposit was paid. By January 2011 everything seemed to be in order with the guest artist signed and booked. Festival organizers felt secure and moved on to attending to the hundreds of other tasks.

There were a few warning signs, still it was a shock when J P Cormier broke the contract 5 days before our festival was to begin and said that he would not be coming. The festival team went into hyper drive, sometimes known as panic mode. After reviewing the possible options, a replacement act was sought and found. Costs were higher for transportation due to short notice and other new costs were incurred. Many helped but particular thanks goes to Greg McLaughlin, AFF president, for his many extra hours of work and lost sleep. We were incredibly lucky to find the brilliant Irish band, Cormac, available on such short notice to fill the gap. The result - we enjoyed great music, another wonderful festival, and more than a little relief. Financially, we didn't do so well.

As the months after festival have passed our

disappointment about J P Cormier ditching us has soured more. Despite repeated requests to have our deposit money returned, nothing has been productive. It has now been 11 months since we paid the deposit, and 8 months since he broke the contract. Having endured a financial setback this year due to this and other causes, our festival truly needs to get its money back. Our membership and international audience is one of this folk festival's remarkable assets, so if anyone knows how to convince Cormier to do the right thing and return what does not belong to him, you have the board's blessing. We do hope that honesty and integrity will finally prevail. Still, this should serve as a warning to other unwary festivals and concert promoters.

Jeff Brown Wins Governor's Award for the Arts

In October, long time festival supporter extraordinaire, Jeff Brown, was presented a Governor's Award for the Arts for lifetime achievement. Our "Minister of Merriment" was recognized for his countless contributions to arts, culture, kids, satire, and all round good-hearted fun. His influence extends far beyond Juneau, but we are very fortunate to have him call Juneau home.



Alaska Folk Festival Membership Form


38th Annual Alaska Folk Festival: April 9-15, 2012

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Amount: \$ _____	Visa or Mastercard ONLY	
Exp. Date: _____	(3 digit security code): _____	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Signature: _____		

Amount \$ _____	
___ Member	(\$15 - \$29)
___ Sustaining Member	(\$30 - \$49)
___ Friend	(\$50 - \$99)
___ Patron	(\$100 - \$249)
___ Benefactor	(\$250 and above)
<input type="checkbox"/> Please do not list my name in the program.	

All members receive the Festival newsletters. Benefactors, Patrons, Friends, and Sustaining Members will be listed in the Festival program (deadline: March 15, 2012). Please mail to: Alaska Folk Festival, PO Box 21748, Juneau, Alaska 99802. Thank You!

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Upcoming Events

Contradances at St. Ann's Hall 7:30pm

Dec 17 with Odette calling and Full Circle playing
Dec 31 with Tom calling and Taku Gaels playing

Gold Street Music - Jan 7

Featuring Steve Nelson, Ed Schoenfeld and the Empty Oil Barrel Band, and Tony Tengs. Starts at 7:30 at the Resurrection Lutheran Church. \$5 at the door.

January Newsletter

Your January newsletter will have the performer application for the upcoming festival. It's never too soon to start planning. In addition, there will be forms for dances, calling, workshops, and volunteering. The 2012 guest artist will also be announced. So watch for it.

Paperless Newsletters

Visit the folk fest web site at <http://akfolkfest.org/paperless.php> to sign up for email newsletters instead of paper.

AFF Board through AFF 38

Greg McLaughlin, President (exp 2013)
Sergei Morosan, Vice President (exp 2012)
Carol Ackerson, Secretary (exp 2013)
John Church, Treasurer (exp 2013)
Lise Paradis (exp 2012)
Jamie Brown (exp 2014)
Pat Henry (exp 2014)

Recent Events

Benefit concerts for **Buddy Tabor** were held in Juneau on November 6th, organized by Betsy Sims, and in White Horse on November 18th, organized by Kim Beggs. Many other Buddy Tabor fans and friends helped with the production of each event, and several hundred attended. They were treated to a rousing evening of food, dance, auctions, and performances by local bands and groups.

Buddy has been a long time performer and strong AFF supporter, and has been diagnosed with stage four cancer. All proceeds will go to help defray the expenses of his medical treatments. Donation checks can be sent to Jeannette Tabor at POB 021273, Juneau, AK 99802.

Jeff Brown continued

As one of the founding members of folk festival, Jeff has done it all - performer, emcee, technician, organizer, board member, and major enthusiast. The oldsters among us will certainly remember Jeff performing on saw as well as the first Bluescast. His energy, sense of humor and dedication over many years have helped shape the folk festival into what it is today.

Congratulations, Jeff Brown, on an award well deserved!

AFF Contacts & Info Sources

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