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January 2017
 Newsletter

43rd Annual
 Alaska Folk Festival
 April 3-9, 2017

APPLICATIONS FOR AFF43 DUE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH - 5PM

We know you're as excited as we are for this year's festival, so here are the many different ways you can apply to be a part of the festivities:

1. Apply directly on our website by filling out an **online form**. Simple, fast, and saves trees.
2. **Download** our applications as PDFs from the website, print, fill it in, and mail it back to us.
3. Contact us by mail, phone, or email (info@akfolkfest.org) and request that we **mail you a paper application form**. We're happy to do so! Fill it out, and mail it back.

All performance applications are **due by February 24th, 5pm**. Workshop applications may be accepted past that deadline, but to give yourself the best chance at receiving a spot, the earlier you send it, the better.

When using the web form to apply, your submitted information will be immediately entered into our database and a confirmation email will be sent back to you with a PDF copy of your completed form. 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.**

Every year some disappointed musicians discover that they waited too long to apply. Don't let this be you. **The DEADLINE is February 24th at 5pm** - in our hands, not just postmarked.

Main Stage Performance Application Deadline: Feb 24th

The 43rd Annual Alaska Folk Festival is scheduled for April 3-9, 2017, at Juneau's Centennial Hall. Evening performances begin at 7:00 pm and afternoon performances begin at noon on Saturday and Sunday. Festival performers are scheduled according to space and availability. **All sets are limited to 15 minutes, including set-up.** There is no guarantee that all who apply will perform. We strive to get as many different performers on stage as possible. Please, live music only. No pre-recorded music or slide shows. If you have special needs for your performance, please let us know when you apply. Completed applications must be received by the Alaska Folk Festival (P.O. Box 21748, Juneau, Alaska 99802) **NO LATER THAN 5 PM, FRIDAY, FEB 24, 2017.** No faxes or email. Check Performer FAQ at <http://akfolkfest.org/faq.php>. The tentative schedule will be sent out to all applicants no later than March 3, 2017. This schedule will be your confirmation of a performance spot.

Please fill out all information as completely as possible. Applications missing information may end up being waitlisted.

Type of performance (circle genre): Singer-songwriter Instrumental Other _____
 Performer/Group Name: _____
 Please provide a short description of your planned performance (REQUIRED): _____

When did you last perform at AFE, if ever (year, day, act name)? _____
 Please list the names of your group members with instrumentation. Large groups please provide separate list.

Name	Instrument	Name	Instrument
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Contact Person: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____
 Day Phone: _____ Eve Phone: _____
 Email: (print clearly) _____

CROSS-OUT dates you are **UNAVAILABLE**. The more you leave open, the greater your chances of being scheduled.
 M (2nd) T (4th) W (5th) Th (6th) F (7th) Sat aft (8th) Sat eve (8th) Sun aft (9th) Sun eve (9th)
 Send my tentative schedule by email as soon as it is ready, rather than by postal mail.

Broadcast Release
 I hereby authorize the live broadcast of my/our performance at the 43rd Annual Alaska Folk Festival over KJNN-FM during the week of April 3-9, 2017. I also authorize the use of my/our performance, both live and recorded, for distribution to the public over non-commercial radio stations and over the internet. I understand that KJNN-FM and the Alaska Folk Festival will not be able to provide monetary compensation for my/our performance, and that Alaska Folk Festival Inc. will not be held liable for lost gear or other personal belongings.
 Printed name of performer and group: _____ Signature: _____
THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR MEMBERS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT! NOT A MEMBER? PLEASE BECOME ONE!

We will review all applications the week after the deadline, and at that time put together a preliminary schedule. Once that schedule is finalized, the draft is sent out to all applicants via email no later than March 3rd, 2017. 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**.

Volunteers: The Heart of Folk Fest

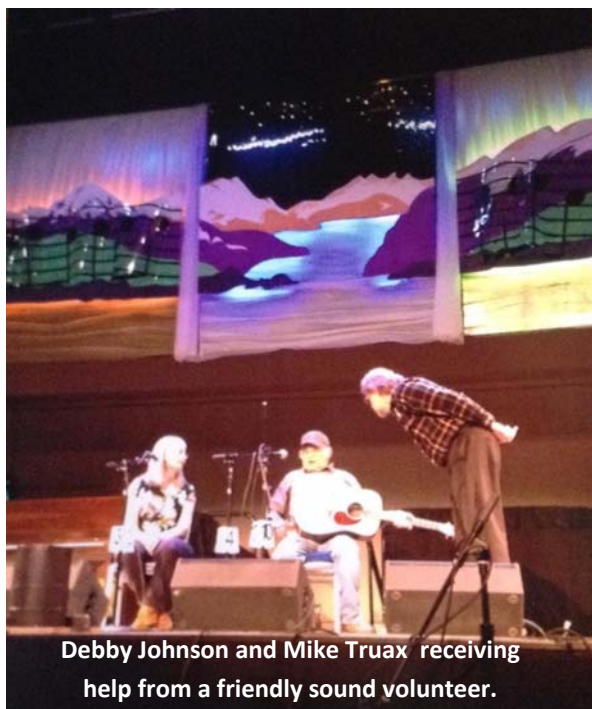
Submit the enclosed form or go to akfolkfest.org to volunteer for this year's festival. We need you!

I moved to Juneau in August of 1999 to take a position teaching at Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School. I knew only one person in town, the sister of one of my best childhood friends. Knowing my love of music, when April rolled around, she suggested that we go to the Alaska Folk Festival. I was amazed that there was such a thing in Juneau: a week-long, no-charge program of a wide variety of acoustic music sets, a guest artist, dances, songwriter showcases, and workshops on the weekend. I was hooked, and have never missed a folk festival since. What was even more amazing to me was that the entire week of music was basically put on by volunteers.

Shortly after that first Folkfest, I met Mike Sakarias and Anne Fuller, longtime organizers and mentors of volunteers. They convinced me that **with absolutely no prior experience with sound systems or folk festivals, that I could easily be trained as a volunteer** in one of the jobs that make the festival happen—selling festival merchandise and memberships, setting up equipment on stage for the various musical sets, or working on the sound monitors at the back of the auditorium or up on stage. I decided to learn how to do sound monitoring (this controls what the musicians hear up while performing) up on stage. There was a workshop on the Sunday afternoon preceding the festival, and Mike explained how the sound system worked, how to operate the clock timing each set, and how to communicate with the sound crew at the back of the auditorium if there was a sound issue that came up. I signed up to work for half of one evening, and have worked sound just about every festival since. There were always experienced people close by in case something came up that I didn't know how to handle. It gave me a new appreciation for the importance of volunteering to help make Folk Festival possible.

As a Folk Fest performer, I came to understand the importance of the stage crew that quickly remove equipment from the previous set and then set up the stage for your performance. They are the ones who set up the microphones, plug in electrical lines, and provide chairs if you need them. **Your success on stage is due, in part, to them.**

Last year a call went out for people interested in being



Debby Johnson and Mike Truax receiving help from a friendly sound volunteer.

on the folk festival board as they were expanding. I have had so much pleasure over my years here during Folk Festival Week that I decided to volunteer. As a board member, I worked with the merchandise/membership table. I had gotten my first folk fest sweatshirt at my first folk festival in 2000. I had worked selling merchandise several times in the past. We are now using a program called Square for sales. If you are comfortable with technology or willing to learn, this would be an excellent place to volunteer. **You get to see the new merchandise, meet a lot of people face to face who come to the festival, and help sustain the festival by taking in memberships.**

Volunteer jobs are generally for half the night, so you can still go to the festival or take part in the dances the other half of the night. And, of course, you can sign up for more than one time during the week. If you are new to volunteering, Mike and Anne host a workshop that Sunday before the festival starts to introduce you to the various volunteer options. If you love this amazing week of musical entertainment on stage or on the dancing floor, please consider signing up as a volunteer. It's what keeps the cost of the festival low enough that we can still offer it free of charge, with only the urging to buy a membership if you are able. Take your pick: sell merchandise and take memberships, work on the sound monitors, or set up equipment on the main stage. Be a part of what makes Alaska Folk Festival the best week of the year in Juneau!

~ contributed by Debby Johnson

FINANCIAL SUPPORT: MEMBERSHIP, PICK.CLICK.GIVE., BEQUESTS, AND ADVERTISING IN OUR PROGRAM

Thanks to all of you for your support of the Alaska Folk Festival this past year. The Folk Festival Board is pleased to report that the festival is financially sound. What an amazing event! The coming folk festival will be the 43rd and we have not missed a year. As always, your folk festival does not charge for any event during the festival and almost all work on the festival is done by volunteers. Did you know, the Alaska Folk Festival is 100% supported by membership donations, merchandise sales, and advertising sales from our program? That means the festival is possible thanks to you, your friends, neighbors, and local businesses! It costs over \$50,000 to put on the festival every year. If you're already a member, THANK YOU! Don't forget to renew! If you're not a member please consider becoming one. We are also one of the many organizations that you can support through the Pick.Click.Give program when you submit your PFD application.

The Alaska Folk Festival is a 501(c)3 organization, EIN 92-0098258. Contributions to AFF are tax deductible. You may also want to consider a bequest to the festival to help us continue for another 43 years (and hopefully many many more). Please contact Bob Schroeder at 907-209-5049 for info.

You can also purchase 2017 program ads now for as little as \$75. Email Ads@AKFolkFest.org for more info.

Annual Membership Meeting & Election

Our annual membership meeting will be held at the Juneau Arts and Culture Center (JACC), across the parking lot from Centennial Hall, at:

5:00pm, Friday, April 7th, 2017.

Open to all current AFF members, this is your chance to contribute to the future of the festival by voting on board members and sharing your thoughts on the festival with the board.

Free food and drinks will be provided.

Your Board

- ..# **Erin Heist**, President (exp **2018**)
- ..# **Ian Putnam**, Vice President (exp **2019**)
- ..# **Val Snyder**, Treasurer (exp **2018**)
- ..# **Bob Schroeder**, Secretary (exp **2019**)
- ..# **Rachel Brown** (exp **2019**)
- ..# **Debbie Johnson** (exp **2018**)
- ..# **Pat Henry** (exp **2017**)
- ..# **Julia Garrity** (exp **2017**)
- ..# **Connor Berry** (exp **2017**)

Feel free to join us for any and all meetings leading up the festival, we meet at 5:30pm at either the Downtown or Douglas Library on the following dates (check the website for details):

Tuesday, January 24th
Tuesday, February 6th
Tuesday, March 7th
Tuesday, March 14th
Tuesday, March 24st
Tuesday, March 28th
Sunday, April 2nd—Set-up Day!