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PO Box 21748 Juneau, AK 99802-1748

www.alaskafolkfest.org January 2021 Newsletter 46th Annual

Alaska Folk Festival April 5-11, 2021

WE PLEASED TO BRING YOU A VIRTUAL AFF46 THIS YEAR. YOU CAN SEE AND HEAR ALL THE MUSIC, AND EVEN SUBMIT YOUR PERFORMANCE FROM HOME!

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 5PM MARCH 8, 2021!!

46th AFF Guest Artist: Richie Stearns & Rosie Newton

Richie Stearns and Rosie Newton grew up 150 miles and few decades apart. Both shared incredibly unique, musically-immersed childhoods: Richie's family founded the iconic GrassRoots Festival of Music & Dance and by her junior year of high school, Rosie was playing fiddle and touring with folk rock band The Mammals. The two were introduced at Saratoga Springs' Flurry festival -- a meeting that would spark a fated friendship and unique musical bond.

While studying viola at Ithaca College and playing fiddle on the side, Rosie started incorporating folk with her traditional Celtic and classical upbringing. Meanwhile, Richie was a well-established singer and banjo player in the community, having performed around the world with bands like Bela Fleck, Pete Seeger, David Byrne, Billy Bragg & Wilco, Old Crow Medicine Show, and Joan Baez. In addition to releasing two solo albums, Richie was adding to his endless discography, which includes three Natalie Merchant records, multiple collaborations with Jim Lauderdale and Donna The Buffalo, and Carrie Rodriguez.

After touring together as part of the Evil City String Band, they decided to pursue a more intimate project as a duo. In 2013 they released Tractor Beam, a 12-track mix of originals and classics. Being their first exclusive release as Richie and Rosie, the pair wanted to give fans a polished recording of the songs that they played live.

The duo returned to the studio last December to record their second full-length album, Nowhere in Time.



The record finds itself at a junction of Americana, old-time, and folk, bringing a new sound to traditional music. The album highlights the incredibly-refined skill of both musicians -- and while the majority of the album is a simple combination of fiddle, banjo, and captivating melodies, the duo manages to pack an incredibly full sound. In Rosie's words, "At the beginning, we were thinking it might be a project with lots of other people involved, more of a big production. As we went through it, we realized that the magic lies within the duo. We have an intimacy of music and we feel the power of two people playing. That's who we are."

Alaska Folk Festival Membership Form

Name: _____

I'd like to receive e-newsletters instead of paper

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Email : _____

Amount: \$ _____ Visa/ MasterCard ONLY

Exp. Date _____ 3 Digit Security Code: _____

Signature: _____

Donation Amount: \$ _____

____ Benefactor (\$500 and Above)

____ Patron (\$150—\$499)

____ Friend (\$50—\$149)

____ Member (\$25- \$49)

____ Pay As You Can Any Amount

Please do not list my name in the program

All members receive AFF newsletters and are invited to the AFF Annual Meeting in April. Benefactors, Patrons and Friends will be listed in the festival program (deadline March 10). Please mail form to: Alaska Folk Festival, PO Box 21748, Juneau, AK 99802.

Donations are tax deductible according to law. (EIN: #92-0098258).

Alaska Folk Festival Receives CARES Act Grant

The decision to cancel the Alaska Folk Festival in March of 2020 was absolutely heartbreaking. We all look forward to this wonderful musical gathering – the chance to see old friends and meet new ones, to play music and to see our friends and family up on the main stage for maybe the first, or the twenty-first, time.

In addition to missing the fun and camaraderie of our annual musical reunion at Centennial Hall in Juneau, the cancellation also meant that the donations and memberships that AFF typically receives during the festival declined by a huge amount.

Thankfully, the Alaska Folk Festival received a \$25,000 grant through the City and Borough of Juneau's CARES Act Non-profit Sustainability Program. This amount does not make up the entirety of the revenue lost due to the cancellation of the 2020 Festival, but it enabled us to remain on a solid financial footing and as a result, we are able to produce the multi-faceted virtual AFF46 this April.

A big thanks to the City and Borough of Juneau, and the Juneau Community Foundation for working hard to make these grant funds available to non-profit organizations like the Alaska Folk Festival. Your support helps us keep the music going in these very difficult times.

Tune Supply—Making Online Participation Possible!

We are very excited to partner with Tune Supply to enable our friends and Members to perform in AFF46 even if we can't all be together!

If you are a regular performer at Folk Fest, or have never performed before, you are encouraged to submit your own video performance to be part of our online concert!

Throughout this pandemic year, Tune Supply has developed a great format that allows multiple musicians to create a video performance together, even if you can't be together physically to record.

We will be accepting video submissions of about 5 minutes in length to make up an online concert. Tune Supply can give all needed technical assistance to enable group recordings, even if done from afar!

More information will be at www.AkFolkFest.org or you can email Tune Supply: Tunes@Tune.Supply

Letter From the President

Dear Alaska Folk Festival Members and Friends,

As we head into 2021 we are full of optimism that the end of the pandemic is in sight, and that we can begin the long process of figuring out what a return to 'normal' life will look like. Even as we have great hope that the coming months will continue to see progress with widespread vaccination, we are not able to host an in-person Folk Festival this April.

We know nothing can compare to the feeling of seeing hundreds of smiling faces, and children dancing in the dimly lit aisles of Centennial Hall, as our friends, family members and musical heroes come together to make music for us all to enjoy. As it became clear that we could not safely have an in-person festival again this year the AFF Board decided to focus on what opportunities this virtual format would provide, rather than what we would miss out on.

This April we are very excited to bring you a virtual AFF46 with several different pieces:

Marquee Guest Artist Concert: AFF is producing a 1-hour video concert performance of this year's amazing Guest Artists, Richie Stearns and Rosie Newton that will premiere on 360 North, Alaska's statewide public television network, Sunday evening at 8 p.m. on April 11.

Community 'Main Stage' Sets: AFF is partnering with Fairbanks' own Caitlin Warbelow and her company Tune Supply to produce online concerts of video performances created and submitted by the broad community of musicians that make up The Alaska Folk Festival family. This is our attempt to offer everyone their moment on the 'main stage' that is the core of our amazing festival. We are very excited to be able to offer this opportunity for everyone to share their homemade performances. Tune Supply has lots of experience creating online concerts like this, and **they can even combine separate videos together so you can put your band performance together even if you're not all in the same location or 'bubble'**. We will have details and instructions on our website about how to create and submit videos for this fun and exciting online concert opportunity.

Nightly 1 Hour Live-Streamed Concerts: AFF is partnering with the very successful Quarantine Happy Hour Facebook group to bring a live-streamed performance to you each of the seven nights of Folk Fest, featuring Richie Stearns and Rosie Newton and artists from all over Alaska. These nightly concerts will happen at 5:30 p.m. Alaska time.

Workshop Weekend: AFF is putting together a weekend of online interactive Zoom workshops. This virtual format will allow us to provide instructional and informational workshops from some really great musicians, no matter where they are located! As with all Alaska Folk Festival events, there will be no charge to participate in the workshops.

I can't stress enough how proud I am to be part of this amazing organization whose volunteer board members committed to do the work to put together this exciting virtual festival. We all miss the chance to be together in the same space, but the virtual format will allow us to encourage and invite unprecedented participation from people all over our vast and wonderful state.

As committed as we are to making this year as meaningful as possible, know that we are equally committed to produce the Festival that we know and love in Juneau in April of 2022. We can't wait to 'see' you at our virtual festival this year and to be together again next year.

Andrew Heist

President

Attend an Online Workshop this Year!

As COVID put an end to nearly all in-person musical performances and events many professional musicians turned their energies toward providing musical instruction and workshops online. Initially many people thought this could never work as an effective format, but as many teachers and students found out — it actually works VERY well!



This year we will be offering a weekend of online workshops via Zoom. We are currently still working out who will be teaching the workshops and information will be available on our website akfolkfest.org and our FaceBook page. If you have a particular workshop you'd like to see offered, please let us know.

As always, our workshops and all other events are available free of charge.



Annual Membership Meeting & Election

Due to COVID-19 Our annual membership meeting will be held via Zoom Meeting this year.

5:00pm, Friday, April 9th, 2020.

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.

Alaska Folk Festival

PO Box 21748, Juneau, Alaska, 99802
907 463-3316

<http://www.akfolkfest.org/>

www.facebook.com/AkFolkFest

General Email: info@akfolkfestival.org

Membership: membership@akfolkfest.org

Promotions: promotions@akfolkfest.org

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