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## January 2018 Newsletter

44th Annual

Alaska Folk Festival  
April 9-15, 2018

***This year's guest artist performances will be on  
FRIDAY and SUNDAY!***

### 44th AFF Guest Artists: Pharis & Jason Romero

Singing vibrant duets, writing deadly songs, playing handmade banjos and loving old acoustic guitars, Pharis & Jason Romero have a classic story. When some scratchy old records and a custom banjo led to their meeting in 2007, they quickly knew they were in for the long haul. They've since released five records - three as a duo, with one more coming out in May 2018 - and toured across North America and the UK. They've won a Juno award, been featured on NPR Music, CBC, BBC, and Folk Alley, and have performed on A Prairie Home Companion and CBC's The Vinyl Cafe. This all while being based out of their small town Canada home of Horsefly, BC, raising two small children, and building highly sought after custom J. Romero Banjos.

Consummate songwriters on the things near and dear (like wilderness dwellers, children, peace and old cowboys) and collectors of old music, their heart-breakingly harmonic live show is an ever-evolving and

never-ending quest for good songs and beautiful sounds. They are passionate teachers and believers in most things folk; Pharis is Artistic Director for Voice Works, a workshop for singers, as part of her work as a singing teacher, and Jason instructs all styles of banjo playing, especially old-time three finger playing.

Pharis & Jason are joined by Josh Rabie, a multi-instrumentalist and vocalist and a sought after bluegrass, old-time and cajun player wherever he goes.



# Alaska Folk Festival Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Visa/ MasterCard ONLY

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Digit Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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 15). Please mail form to: Alaska Folk Festival, PO Box 21748, Juneau, AK 99802.

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

## A Note from the Treasurer

Thank you to everyone who renewed their membership or became a new member of the Alaska Folk Festival in 2017. Membership donations are vital to the ongoing management and operations of the festival and we thank you for your support. There is still time to become a Member this year and we encourage you to send in the membership/donation form attached to this newsletter or renew your membership online at [www.akfolkfest.org](http://www.akfolkfest.org).

In addition to membership donations, please consider donating a portion of your PFD to the Alaska Folk Festival through Pick.Click.Give. Thank you so much to the 39 Alaskans who donated to the festival this year through that great program.

Financially we broke even last year and we are on track to do so again this year, but we need addi-

tional support to continue to offer the quality experience expected at Folk Fest. Over the next few years we also plan to do some additional fundraising in the hopes that we can continue to build our funding reserves and throw an epic 50th anniversary festival in 2024.

Thank you to all our members for your ongoing support and please send in the membership/donation form soon if you would like to become a new member and be recognized in our 2018 program.



## Applications open! Apply by 5pm on Feb. 23rd

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](mailto: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 23rd, 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 da-

tabase 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.**

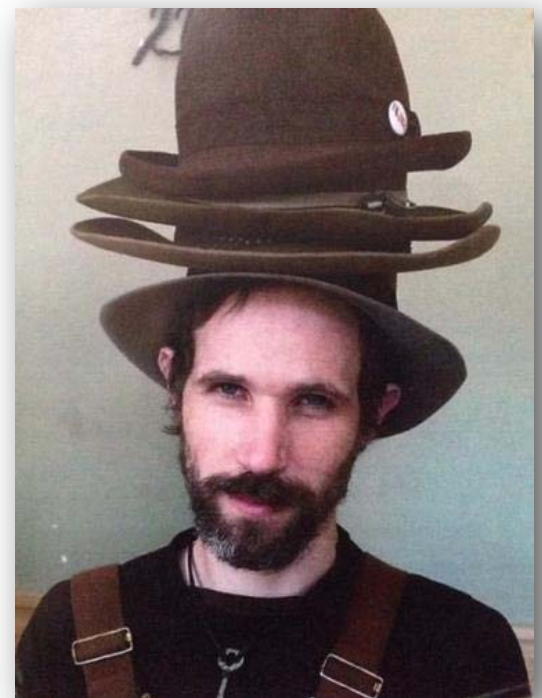
Every year some disappointed musicians discover that they waited too long to apply. Don't let this be you. **The DEADLINE is February 23rd at 5pm** - in our hands, not just postmarked.

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 2nd, 2018. 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).

## In Memorium: Lucas Hicks

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Lucas Hicks this last fall. Lucas lit up the Juneau stage many times over his too short life. Famous for his acrobatic act with The Gallus Brothers, Lucas would astound Juneau audiences by juggling, standing on his band-mate Devin Champlin, and playing guitar simultaneously. The Gallus Brothers performed for many summers at the Alaskan Hotel & Bar and were featured at the Pelican Boardwalk Boogie. In 2014 the Gallus Brothers were the Alaska Folk Festival dance band. More recently Lucas visited Juneau with his partner Jenny Rose Lara and their band Rattletrap Ruckus, playing a sold-out Not-So-Silent Film at The Goldtown Nickelodeon Theater. For the last 14 years, Lucas has heroically battled cancer, and would have turned 40 next month. We're playing lots of tunes in his memory and we're sure there will be lots of jams in his honor at this next festival. Our hearts go out to all of Lucas' family and friends. Lucas' kindness, cheer, and effervescent love of music have inspired us all.



# It Takes a Village: Volunteering for the Folk Fest

**Just as it takes a village to raise a child, so it takes a “village” of many volunteers to put on the Alaska Folk Festival each April.**

What needs to be done? That are a huge variety of ways that you can be a integral part of the Alaska Folk Festival. Volunteers handle sound boards and do set up on stage, work the membership and merchandise table, solicit advertisements for the AFF program, help out at the singer-songwriter venue on Saturday and Sunday, conduct workshops, organize or take part in the Family Concert, act as an emcee for the afternoon or evening performances, help out with the annual meeting, or even volunteer to be a candidate for the AFF board!

**Have you ever wanted to learn more about sound boards and various other microphones and equipment that bring high quality sound to an audience? How to use Square when handling money transactions? How to engage with an audience as an emcee? All these are possible at AFF.**

Long time performer and former AFF board member Mike Truax decided last year to volunteer for sound board monitoring and for working at the membership/merchandise table. Both were a little intimidating as he wasn't familiar with the sound boards used to help musicians onstage hear themselves, their instruments, and fellow performers. He also had never used Square to ring up membership and merchandise purchases on a tablet. He discovered that there was excellent help available and close at hand as he was learning these new skills. As a musician,

he found it particularly helpful to learn the differences between the main sound coming out to the audience as opposed to the sound monitoring board

that brought sound to performers. In just one sitting, he became familiar with the gestures that performers used to indicate adjustments to sound as they were preparing for, or in the middle of, a performance. This is information that he can carry with him in



Backdrop Team: Julia Garrity, Jenna O'Fontanella, and Rachael Juzler

*future performances.*

Steve Houlihan has performed with Mike Truax and he has enjoyed years of Folk Festival performances and workshops. He felt it was important to give back to Folk Fest, and Sound Tech crew was his area of interest. He wanted to go beyond using his own equipment in a garage-band style to something more professional. Steve learned the differences between the house system at the back of the concert hall and the

stage monitoring systems up on the side of the stage. He focused on the latter. He especially wanted to know how to get the correct blend of instruments and performer voices for a particular set and how to deal with feedback from the microphones. His son Ryan wanted to put his college education as a musical technician and sound engineering student to use in a live setting. He was

grateful for an opportunity to work on the (cont.)



Stage Manager Koren Bosworth

## Volunteering for Folk Fest (cont.)

main sound board that brings sound to the audience.

Mark Heard has played on the AFF main stage numerous times in recent years. He also volunteers for stage set up. He's had experience working with sound for his own band's performances, but the Folk Festival crew has given him a chance to set up all sorts of instruments from stand up bass to piano to flute to electric guitar. One of the real challenges is to quickly and efficiently set up new acts every fifteen minutes. He feels his work with stage sound set up has helped him set up microphones to the best advantage for voice and guitar for his own gigs.

Rachel Brown is currently a member of the AFF board. Last April she decided to go beyond her usual board duties and try something entirely new: being an emcee for one of the evening performances. She did a brilliant job!

So, whether you're a performing musician, board member, or simply someone who enjoys coming to the festival, there are many diverse volunteer opportunities. You'll have experienced people who will mentor you if you are a beginner. **Give it a try, and be part of the Alaska Folk Fest volunteers who truly make the festival possible.**

## Advertise in the Alaska Folk Festival Program!

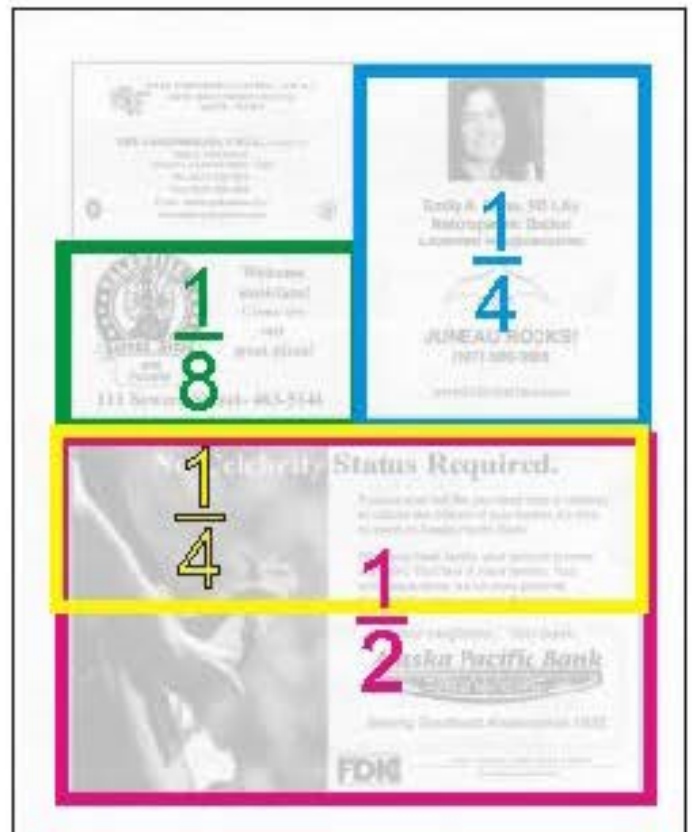
Want to show your support for the festival AND get your business or event in front of the eyes of thousands of Alaskans? Reserve your advertising space in this year's program. The deadline to place an ad is March 10, 2018. This year's program will not have color pages; all ads will be black and white.

Size	Measurement (Height x Width) Resolution @300dpi	Price
Full Page	7 1/2" x 6" 2250 x 1800px	\$600
Half Page	3 3/4" x 6" 1125 x 1800px	\$300
Quarter Page - tall	3 3/4" x 3" 1125 x 900px	\$150
Quarter Page - wide	1 7/8" x 6" 562 x 1800px	\$150
One Eighth Page	1 7/8" x 3" 562 x 900px	\$75

Please submit your high resolution ad (300 dpi or larger) as a TIFF or PDF to:

AdArt@AKFolkFest.org.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Ads@AKFolkFest.org



**Your advertisement helps make the festival possible! Thank you!**

## Share your knowledge—lead a workshop

Workshops on the weekend are a fantastic part of the Alaska Folk Festival. Over the years, we have had music theory workshops, demonstrations of taking apart and maintaining autoharps or uilleann pipes, dancing, stagecraft, ukulele, rounds as well as many guitar workshop sessions.

We ask the guest artists to lead workshops and have plenty of sessions led by volunteers. We try to cover popular instruments (fiddle, guitar, banjo, voice) and styles (flatpicking, Irish). Thankfully, we have stalwart leaders who offer to lead most years, but there's room for more. If you have knowledge to share, please do let us know now how you can help.

We schedule workshops, generally for ninety minutes on Saturday and Sunday. The idea is to encourage non-professional performers. People come to find out more about an instrument (psaltry or mandolin or bones or banjo) or to learn a new skill (Cajun fiddle backup or vocal harmonizing) or to hear some tunes. Sometimes what happens in the room is sharing about the topic. We need volunteers to start the ball rolling, present information, and encourage learning.

## 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 13th, 2018.**

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.**

## Stage Craft Workshops for Performers! April 8th & April 14th

**Want to get the most out of your fifteen minutes on stage? Has the biggest obstacle to fame and future fortune been your fear of microphones and monitors? Do you struggle to hear yourself adequately? Should you DI your instrument or mic it? What's a DI, anyway? How do you best use the mic, anyway? Do you know what you need and how to get it? Answers to these questions and many more can be yours!**

Both workshops take place in Centennial Hall on the AFF Main Stage. The first workshop is BEFORE the AFF starts, on Sunday, April 8th, starting about 6:15 PM, hosted by the AFF sound engineers. The workshop will be repeated on Saturday, April 14th at 10:30 AM.

Bring your instruments and your questions, get on stage and try things out.

**Call Mike Sakarias at 586-4422 with questions.**

## Alaska Folk Festival

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

[www.facebook.com/AkFolkFest](http://www.facebook.com/AkFolkFest)

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

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

**Promotions:** [promotions@akfolkfest.org](mailto:promotions@akfolkfest.org)

### Board of Directors

**President:** Val Snyder (exp 2018)

**Vice President:** Erin Heist (exp 2018)

**Treasurer:** Beverly Schoonover (exp 2020)

**Secretary:** Bob Schroeder (exp 2019)

**Board Member:** Pat Henry (exp 2020)

**Board Member:** Rachel Brown (exp 2019)

**Board Member:** Ian Putnam (exp 2019)

**Board Member:** Debby Johnson (exp 2018)

**Board Member:** Julia Garrity (exp 2020)