

PERFORMERS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: How can I get a Performer Application? When is the deadline?

A: We mail out the performer and volunteer applications in this newsletter to all members in October. They will be posted on the Anchorage Folk Festival web site shortly after. The due date, in late November, is noted on the application, and it must be in-our hands on or before that date. Late applications have an almost zero chance of getting into the schedule.

Q: Do I have to be a member to perform?

A: You do not need to be a member of the Anchorage Folk Festival to perform, watch, jam, or attend workshops dances or folk week concerts. All activities except the ones designated, as fundraisers are free to performers and audience members, alike. BUT, being a member of the Anchorage Folk Festival is something that you should WANT to do and here's why:

Many people still erroneously believe that since the Festival is free to come to, it must not cost anything to put on. Nothing could be further from the truth. The venue rentals, expenses and the Guest Artists (fee, travel, room and board) cost the Festival nearly \$50,000. This includes \$5,000+ on professional sound engineering, equipment rental, printing, etc. Individual memberships from folks like you and me supply about 75% of the money that goes to pay for the Festival. We can only continue to produce a festival next year and beyond if our performers, audience and members support it.

Each year we have more applications than performance spots in our schedule. If we have to choose between two essentially identical acts for one performance spot, one an AFF member and the other not a member, preference will be given to the AFF member. We appreciate the support of our performers and want to continue to provide you with a venue to showcase your talents and discover others.

Q: When do I know anything about the performance schedules? What is the Tentative Schedule?

A: You will be contacted by e-mail with your performance time approximately 2 weeks after the deadline. If further schedule changes occur we will contact you by phone or email as soon as possible. Please be flexible in your choices of performance times. There are many factors that affect the performance schedule and we cannot guarantee any specific slots. We receive more applications than we have slots for and may not be able to accommodate applications that are limited to a particular day or time.

Q: What happens on the day of performance? Where do I go?

A: The festival is scheduled for January 21-31, 2010 at UAA's Wendy Williamson Auditorium. Evening sessions begin at 7pm and afternoon sessions begin at 1pm. Please check in backstage no less than 1 hour before scheduled performance time with the Stage Manager. If you plan to teach a workshop or play during folkweek please take care to avoid scheduling conflicts. Requests for last-minute changes have a big ripple effect on everyone in the festival. If you can't make the scheduled time, there is no guarantee of getting another time slot.

Q: How long will my set be?

A: Every act in the schedule has one 15-minute performance set counting set-up. Guest Artists are scheduled to perform longer sets.

Q: What do you mean "15 minute set counting set-up?" What if I have a big act that takes a long time to set-up?

A: Your time on stage from when the stage crew starts setting up your act to the end of your last tune/song should be 15 minutes or less. Given the popularity of performing at the Anchorage Folk Festival, in order to get as many performers and acts across the stage as we can, we have settled on 15 minutes sets. The "clock" starts when the stage crew has finished clearing the previous act and starts setting up yours. You don't have time to waste. Get on stage. Start making musical sounds so the sound engineers can get you dialed in. When you are set, the MC will introduce you and away you go. At this point, you may have been on stage for 2-3 minutes depending on your set-up, longer if you are disorganized or have a complex set up, leaving you with a maximum of maybe 12 minutes for your music AND any between songs talking you might do. If you are going to talk a lot, you can't sing/play as much. All your talking is part of your act, part of your 15 minutes. When you rehearse, time your music, AND time your talking.

Q: So, how many songs can I actually play in my set?

A: With set up and talking, you should plan on no more than about 10 minutes of music (three average 3 minute songs). If you plan carefully, have a quick and easy set-up and yack very little on stage, you might get by with 12 minutes of music, but that is risky as it is easy to end up going overtime-a big no-no.

Q Why this rigorous time limit? What happens if I end up going overtime?

A: Don't sweat a few seconds. The 15-minute time limit is a matter of courtesy and fairness to all the other performers. If a performer goes long that does two unfair things: 1) It pushes back the ending time of the LAST acts of the concert, meaning smaller audience for the last acts than those who went earlier, because people start to go home as the hour gets late. 2) This unnecessarily late ending time ALSO adds to the work time of the festival volunteers, many of who work long hours during the Festival and all for free. The volunteers usually have day jobs and need to get their sleep to function efficiently.