



37TH ANNUAL
ANCHORAGE FOLK
★ FESTIVAL ★

January 22–February 1 2026
UAA Wendy Williamson Auditorium



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Welcome!

Anchorage Folk Festival is celebrating our 37th year!

The Anchorage Folk Festival is proud to celebrate our 37th year—and we're celebrating **you**, our members, sponsors, and local community! This year's festival theme highlights both the incredible talent at home and our national Guest Artist bands. As ever, we are celebrating our youth and encouraging them to make this their festival by performing, participating, and volunteering.

The festival kicks off on January 22 with **Parlor in the Round** (p. 14), featuring well-known musicians **Eric Hawk**, **Hunter Prueger**, and our local favorite **Shonti Elder**—fiddler, songwriter, and longtime host of the radio show “Traveling Music.” Then, over two full weekends, the festival will showcase 120 local acts and 50+ workshops (p. 8) at the UAA Wendy Williamson Auditorium and the adjacent Professional Studies Building. Additionally, the festival is hosting three main-stage headliner artists: **Henhouse Prowlers** (p. 17), **the Faux Paws** (p. 37), and the popular **Roland Roberts Band** (p. 47). And **Folk Week** (p. 34), in between the festival's two weekends, has at least 36 local artists/bands and will be expanding to new venues in Girdwood and Palmer. **All of these events are free!**

Our friends at **Odd Man Rush Brewing** (OMR) in Eagle River are the venue hosts for our **fundraising concert** on **January 24**, featuring the international touring bluegrass group Henhouse Prowlers; kicking off the event will be local favorite **Wiley Post**, playing a full set (p. 25). The following Thursday, **January 29**, the Anchorage Folk Festival and the **Dancing Bears** organization will be hosting a raucous **fundraiser Barn Dance** at the **Spenard Community Recreation Center** (p. 39), with music provided by our second-weekend headliner, **the Faux Paws**. A special **fundraiser concert** will also be held during Folk Week on **Wednesday January 28** at **49th State Brewing** (p. 35), featuring **the Horsenecks** and **Hannah Read**!

We are looking forward to the contributions of our Guest Artists to the Anchorage Folk Festival. Both Henhouse Prowlers and the Faux Paws will be giving **workshops** during the festival weekends at UAA. The Faux Paws will be helping judge our annual **Banjo Contest** (p. 48), on **Saturday the 31st**, and some select Anchorage **schools** will have special performances and workshops provided by the Henhouse Prowlers as part of their **US Bluegrass Outreach** program.

We are so excited about our fabulous Guest Artists lineup:

Henhouse Prowlers—Bluegrass Band and US Bluegrass Ambassadors (UAA/OMR)

The Faux Paws—Newgrass/Folk/CelticTrad Band (UAA/Barn Dance)

Wiley Post—Alaska band opening at OMR

The Roland Roberts Band—Alaska Band second Saturday Night at UAA

Emily Tallman (p. 3), our Anchorage-based visual artist and graphic designer, who has previously served on the AFF Board, created the beautiful artwork for this year's festival banners and merchandise.

We have so many folks to thank! We could not put this festival on without the support of our volunteers, our sponsors, our donors, and the support of our membership. They are listed in this program (pp. 57–64) and on our website. Please take the time to join our festival community either online or in the UAA lobby.

Our AFF Board this year is small, and we can really use more help to ensure we have a festival next year. Please **consider joining the Board** and, most importantly, come to our **Annual Business Meeting** on **Saturday the 31st** (p. 42) and speak up. **We listen to what you have to say.**

—**Pamela Pope**, Anchorage Folk Festival Board of Directors President

Introducing Emily Tallman

Anchorage Folk Festival 2026 Visual Artist

Emily Tallman is an Anchorage-based graphic designer, musician, writer, and multidisciplinary arts enthusiast. As the founder of her design agency, **Poetica**, she has worked with a wide range of Alaskan arts organizations and nonprofits, including the Alaska State Council on the Arts, Spnenard Jazz Fest, The Nave, and Momentum Dance Collective. Before shifting her focus to design, Emily toured nationally as a singer-songwriter, earning recognition in songwriting competitions at the Woody Guthrie Folk Festival, Rocky Mountain Folks Festival, and Kerrville Folk Festival.

Emily has served on the board of the Anchorage Folk Festival (2014–2015) and currently serves on the board of The Music Machine. She holds a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from UAA.

Emily likes to ride her bike with her family and tap dance. She can't whistle.

alaskagraphicdesign.com



In the Lobby...

There's a lot going on during the Folk Festival at the Wendy Williamson Auditorium alone. In between Main Stage acts, be sure to check out the lobby, where you can:

- BECOME a **Member** or
RENEW your **Membership**
- Check out the **Silent Auction** items (see page 6)
- Get your 37th Annual Anchorage Folk Festival **merchandise** and stock up on previous years' goodies
- Join in or listen in on one of the ongoing casual music jams!
- Support our Guest Artists and local musicians—check out their CDs!
- Buy a **Raffle Ticket** (or 10!)—drawings will be held on Sunday evenings (see page 4)



Raffle Tickets

We have another outstanding line-up of raffle items...**over \$6,000 in prizes from our generous sponsors!** We draw winner names from the main stage on BOTH Sunday evenings (Jan 25 and Feb 1) just before the Guest Artists begin their set—approximately 8:30 pm. Your ticket purchases support the Anchorage Folk Festival and give you a chance to win one (or more) of this year's fabulous prizes!

Alaska Airlines

Ticket voucher for up to \$1,250, good for anywhere Alaska Airlines flies
(Two opportunities to win ONE voucher—one voucher drawn Jan 25, second voucher drawn Feb 1)

Seward Sockeye House

Two-night off-season stay in beautiful downtown Seward Vrbo that accommodates up to 12 people (valued at over \$1,400) (see page 36)

Alaska Railroad

Two round-trip tickets from Anchorage to Seward (valued at over \$450)

Alaska Music & Sound (The Horn Doctor)

\$250 Gift Certificate (Two opportunities to win ONE gift certificate - one certificate drawn Jan 25, second certificate drawn Feb 1)



Salmonfest 2026

Weekend pass for two to 2026 festival (valued at over \$400)

Skeetawk - Hatcher Pass

Family day pass and gear rental (valued at \$500)



Alaska Huts Association

Two-night mid-week yurt stay at Manitoba facility (valued at \$105)

Paramount Cycles

\$99 bike tuneup (Two opportunities to win ONE gift certificate - one certificate drawn Jan 25, second certificate drawn Feb 1)

Raffle tickets are individually just \$10 each + processing fee, or buy them at discounted fun-sized bundles! Purchase at the AFF merchandise table in the lobby or online at anchoragefolkfestival.org/tickets. Winners do not need to be present at time of drawing but, per State of Alaska law, are required to be physically present in Alaska at time of ticket purchase. Anchorage Folk Festival Board Directors and/or their extended family are not eligible to win. All proceeds to benefit the Anchorage Folk Festival.

Be Sure to Purchase Your AFF Raffle Tickets!



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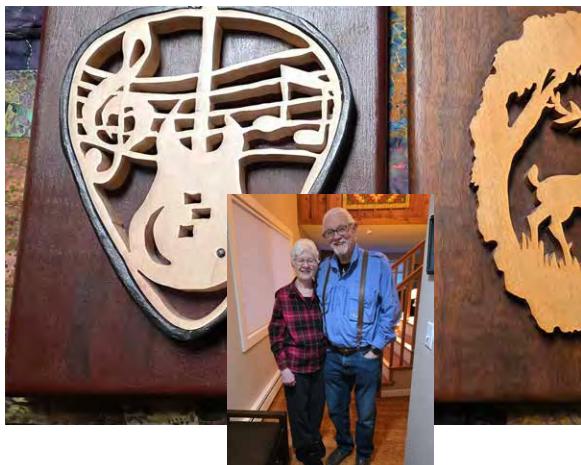
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Silent Auction

Silent Auction items will be on display in the lobby both weekends. You can bid on items using their accompanying bidding sheets. Winners will be announced Sunday evening, February 1, from the Main Stage. All proceeds to benefit the Anchorage Folk Festival.



Wooden Art Pieces

Donated by Ken Baehr

Hand-scrolled saw technique woodwork. Both are examples of fret work, which is a design cut out of a single piece of wood. The musical piece is glued to stained pine, and the deer is glued to black walnut.

Value/MSRP: \$100 each.



Alaska Rock Gym Passes

Donated by Alaska Rock Gym

Two five-day punch cards and two one-day passes. Equipment included.

Value/MSRP: \$155 (punch cards) / \$31 (day passes).

“Camouflage” Giclée Print

Donated by Linda Infante Lyons

16" x 16" image, total dimensions 20" x 20". Limited edition of 200, signed and numbered.

Value/MSRP: \$250.





SWOOP Tunics

Donated by SWOOP

A blue "Glacial Geo" Large tunic and a grey "Sunset Peaks" Small tunic.



Designed for those who appreciate comfort without compromising on personality. Designed and tested in Anchorage, their tunics promise durability and comfort. See wearswoop.com/collections/tunic for more description and other tunic designs.

Value/MSRP: \$125 each.

Gift Basket

Donated by Midnight Sun Brewing

One hoodie, a T-shirt, two pile pullovers, a growler, a pint glass, a keyring, a plastic pint glass, a cozy, stickers, and \$25 gift card.

Value/MSRP: \$250.



Other amazing auction items to bid on:

- **PolyTone Taurus Elite amp, Fender SP-10 amp, and Roland CUBE Street amp** from Richard Gelardin and Ken Baehr
- **Piano tuning** by Cameron Cartland
- A **painting** by Steve Gordon
- **Wooden bowls** from Paul Cartland and Dave Tyler
- **Gift certificates** from Cynosure Brewing
- **Wooden chair/ironing board** from Paul Cartland

Workshop Index (By Topic)

Workshops are held each weekend of the Folk Festival. See all workshops listed by date on pages 20, 26, 42, and 50. (Turn the page for even more workshops!)

★ = Guest Artist Workshops

BANJO

Bluegrass Banjo with Kevin Cassity • It's all about attitude! A workshop for beginning to intermediate banjo-nauts. Sat Jan 24, 2:30–3:45, PSB 109

Old-Time Banjo with Kevin Cassity • Sun Feb 1, 4:00–5:15, PSB 210

BASS

★ **Bass Is the Place: Theory and Technique to Improve Your Groove and Deepen Your Pocket** with Guest Artist **Chris Sartori** of the **Faux Paws** • Sun Feb 1, 1:00–2:15, PSB 109

★ **Bluegrass Bass** with Guest Artist **Jon Goldfine** • Join Jon Goldfine from **Henhouse Prowlers** as he shares the highs and lows of being the backbone of any music situation. This workshop will cover everything from bass setup and technique and include a demonstration of his wild full-sized upright that folds up to fit under a plane seat! Sun Jan 25, 1:00–2:15, PSB 110

DANCE

Introduction to Solo Jazz • Solo jazz is a highly improvisational dance style that emerged from African American communities. While most people recognize the Charleston, solo jazz includes so many other moves like the Suzie Q, Fall off the Log, and Boogie Forward. In this beginner class, we'll learn a few moves that you can mix and match and add your own style. No partner or dance experience necessary. Just bring water and comfortable clothes and shoes. Sun Jan 25, 11:00–12:15, Main Stage

Irish Ceili Dancing • Come learn (or practice) Irish ceili (sounds like "kay-lee") dances! Don't worry, it's not Riverdance—the closest American equivalent is contra dancing. No partner or experience needed and all ages are welcome, but kids please keep your responsible adult handy... and adults, you may need to help smaller children through the dance. We'll have live music from the Red Cap family band! Sat Jan 24, 11:00–12:15, Main Stage

Irish Folk Dancing—A Blend of Multiple Types

• Have you ever admired the lively steps of Irish dancers or found yourself tapping your foot to a catchy tune? Join us for a beginner-friendly continuation of Céilí—Irish social dancing. Sharing roots with many styles of folk dancing like contra and even country, our dances are performed in groups, forming intricate patterns that are as much fun to dance as they are to watch. These classes will build on the beginning class, expanding to include set dancing and other group dances. First weekend class recommended but not required. Join us as individual, couple, or bring a group; dancers can dance any role they choose, and you will dance with different people as the session progresses. Sun Jan 25, 9:30–10:45, and Sun Feb 1, 9:30–10:45, Main Stage

Swing Dance with Katie Cueva and Hot Club of Nunaka • Learn the basics of swing dancing to the live music of Hot Club of Nunaka. All dancers welcome, no experience needed. Sun Feb 1, 11:00–12:15, Main Stage

Youth Contra Dance (All Ages Welcome ages 2 to 122) with Stephen Bahner • Anybody can learn how to do-si-do! Bring your dancing shoes and be prepared for a good time. This workshop is especially geared for kids and teens, but all are welcome! Sat Jan 31, 11:00–12:15, Main Stage

FIDDLE

Fiddle Tunes for All Instruments • Bring your instrument! All are welcome to learn and play some new and old tunes together. Sat Jan 24, 2:30–3:45, PSB 110

Fun Fiddle Tunes • Brighten your winter with some easy fun tunes. All levels and all instruments welcome. Sun Feb 1, 11:30–12:45, PSB 109

★ **Twin Fiddling** (all lead instruments welcome!) with Guest Artists **Andrew VanNorstrand** and **Noah VanNorstrand** of the **Faux Paws** • Sun Feb 1, 1:00–2:15, PSB 110

**Workshops are an important pillar of the Anchorage Folk Festival.
They are unique opportunities to refine instrument skills,
learn a new craft, connect with community, and become inspired!
Anyone can attend a festival workshop...and they are all free!**

GUITAR

Beginning and Intermediate Fingerstyle Guitar

• This workshop is for beginner and intermediate guitar players who would like to learn some basic and intermediate fingerstyle (picking with fingers) guitar techniques to improve and/or add to their guitar playing. Sun Feb 1, 1:00–2:15, PSB 210

Blues and Jazz Guitar 102 • Explore the roots of Americana blues and how they morph into the language of jazz. Sat Jan 24, 4:00–5:15, PSB 110

Fingerstyle Acoustic Guitar • An introduction to fingerstyle guitar. Leave your picks in the guitar case. A hands-on workshop. We will address basic Travis picking, claw hammer rhythm guitar, some “drop D” tuning, and alternate positions for chords. Basic knowledge of chords helpful but not necessary. Sat Jan 24, 1:00- 2:15, PSB 110

Intro to Travis Picking Fingerstyle Guitar •

Intro to Travis-style guitar fingerpicking in the style of Chet Atkins, Tommy Emmanuel, and Doc Watson. Will present basic concepts and how to get started. Some basic knowledge of chords probably good...but if you just want to learn, all are welcome! Sun Jan 25, 11:30–12:45, PSB 109

Introduction to Alternate (Open) Guitar Tunings for Playing and Writing Music •

Introduction to alternate tunings for fingerstyle, pick, and slide guitar—also called “open tunings” because the guitar is tuned to a chord which can simplify work for the chording hand and create chord voicings which add skills for producing unique progressions and easier fingering pattern use. Many songs are written and performed using alternate tunings because this mechanism sometimes makes this process easier than standard chords made with standard tunings. Sun Feb 1, 2:30–3:45, PSB 210

Slide-Guitar Workshop for Beginning and

Intermediate Slide-Guitar Players • This slide-guitar workshop is for beginning and intermediate slide-guitar players who would like to try adding or improving their slide-guitar-playing guitar skills. You will learn basic and some intermediate techniques. Sun Feb 1, 11:30–12:45, PSB 210

Acoustic (aka folk or country) Blues Basics • In

this class we first do a presentation of what makes the blues the blues: including the history, types of instruments, structure, keys, and scales. We will then work on playing some scales, blue notes, finger-style thumb independence, and a basic shuffle. We will end by learning to jam by yourself. Sat Jan 24, 11:30–12:45, PSB 109

Anchorage Mandolin Orchestra
Armin Abdihodžić, Musical Director



Join us for our spring concert, April 27, 2026, 4:30pm
Anchorage Lutheran Church 1420 N Street

If you read music and play mandolin, mandola, octave mandolin, mandocello, guitar, or bass and would like to join the fun, contact Pam at pdmac5330@gmail.com

WORKSHOP INDEX (BY TOPIC) (CONTINUED)

Workshops are held each weekend of the Folk Festival.

See all workshops listed by date on pages 20, 26, 42, and 50.

★ = Guest Artist Workshops

IMPROVISATION

Improvising Melodies 101 • Exploring the role and resources of improvisation through the spectrum of Americana styles. Sat Jan 31, 4:00–5:15, PSB 110

JAMS

Acoustic Jam Session and Song Circle • All are welcome at this Acoustic Jam session! Music and lyrics will be available for some standard folk tunes. All should come with at least one tune they are ready to call. Sun Jan 25, 4:00–5:15, PSB 109

Alaska City Folk Arts Rehearsal & Jam • All are welcome to join us as we prepare for our main-stage set. Sun Jan 25, 11:30–12:45, PSB 110

Beginning Jamming and Improvisation • A play-along, sing-along, improvise-along (and dance-along?) workshop. All instruments, all ages, all skill levels, welcome! Sat Jan 24, 4:00–5:15, PSB 109

Mid-Tempo Bluegrass Jam • Pick some classic bluegrass songs at a moderate tempo. Tablets discouraged; let's play by ear! Sun Feb 1, 4:00–5:15, PSB 110

Show Up and Jam • PSB Room 109 is reserved for folks who want to have a welcoming and maybe spontaneous jam session. Please be sure to clean up the room when finished and leave it better than you found it! Sat Jan 31, 4:00–5:15, PSB 109

MANDOLIN

★ **Mandolin with Guest Artist Jake Howard of Henhouse Prowlers** • Bring your mandolins as we use double stops as our guide for playing melodies and improvising solos. Just like the pros do! Sun Jan 25, 1:00–2:15, PSB 109

Mandolin 201 • For those with a basic understanding of the mandolin who want to learn moveable, closed chord shapes and unlock more notes up the neck. Sat Jan 24, 1:00–2:15, PSB 210



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What the Heck? Up the Neck! Mapping the Mandolin Fretboard • Explore patterns and voicings to expand your mandolin mind!

Sat Jan 31, 1:00–2:15, PSB 210

MUSIC THEORY

Zen of Music Theory • Go away knowing a simple-to-remember method of determining what notes are in every key, what notes are in every chord, what the chord progression is in each key, and other music-theory rules. And be able to use this method on the fly. Learn tricks of what to do when you get lost or how to participate in a jam with advanced players. No prior knowledge of music theory needed. Sun Jan 25, 4:00–5:15, PSB 110, and Sat Jan 31, 2:30–3:45, PSB 109

★ **Arranging a Tune—the Ins and Outs** with Guest Artists the **Faux Paws** • Sun Feb 1, 2:30–3:45, PSB 110

PERFORMER/ MUSICIAN SUPPORT

Acoustic Guitar Construction Show-and-Tell • Dave Gerard is a part-time luthier in Homer. He has been building for over 25 years and would like to demonstrate how acoustic instruments are built. Sat Jan 24, 11:30–12:45, PSB 210

★ **Bluegrass Ambassadors: Finding Common Chords in Music and Across Humanity** • Having toured across 30 countries (and arriving from a Mexico tour just two days ago), the **Henhouse Prowlers** have developed a unique skill set that connects people around the world through their nonprofit **Bluegrass Ambassadors**. This workshop distills those experiences into practical tools that anyone can use to bridge cultural and linguistic divides through music and storytelling. Participants will leave with concrete strategies to foster genuine connection, whether across the street or across the globe. Instruments and voices encouraged! Sun Jan 25, 2:30–3:45, PSB 110

Feldenkrais for Musicians • A workshop for anyone who feels blocked in learning music—or finds playing a struggle. As children, we learn with ease and pleasure, yet Western education often trains that natural joy out of us, valuing effort and “hard work” over fun, relaxed, curious exploration. Through the Feldenkrais approach, we’ll explore how to return to effortless, pleasurable learning in music, movement, and life. The session includes discussion and gentle movement explorations.

Bring a comfortable mat or yoga pad. Sun Jan 25, 2:30–3:45, PSB 109

Microphones, Monitors, and Other Mysteries of Live Sound • This workshop takes place on the Wendy main stage. Bring your instruments, bandmates, and voices, and the Folk Festival sound team will answer all your questions and even give you a chance to try out a bit of your set! Sat Jan 24, 9:30–10:45, and Sat Jan 31, 9:30–10:45, Main Stage

Polishing Your Performance • Whether a soloist, group, or whole band...come join our interactive session to help improve stage presence and performance—fun, supportive, and always positive! Robin Hopper, Marianne See, and Caiti Hopper again offer this popular session to strengthen performances of our local talented artists. Bring instruments! Sat Jan 24, 11:30–12:45, PSB 110

SONGWRITING

Artisan Song Crafting • This workshop is focused on the careful, methodical work of polishing a song that occurs after the creative burst that produces the beautiful, poetic, or clever images that are the raw material. We’ll look at what makes a song sound really professional and what makes it capture the listener. Sat Jan 31, 1:00–2:15, PSB 109

Creating Memorable Songs • Ideas for great songs are all around you! In this back-to-back double workshop, we will explore a technique for writing memorable lyrics that connect with the listener. Just bring yourself, your ears, and your imagination. Ideas for creating melodies will also be discussed. Sat Jan 24, 2:30–5:15, PSB 210

WORKSHOP INDEX (BY TOPIC) (CONTINUED)

Workshops are held each weekend of the Folk Festival.

See all workshops listed by date on pages 20, 26, 42, and 50.

UKULELE

Beginner Ukulele • Want to learn how to play the ukulele? This is the class for you. Go from not knowing anything to playing songs before you are done. That is correct—you will be able to play five songs before you are done. Come have some fun, meet the people who deliver the FUN. Sun Jan 25, 11:30–12:45, PSB 210, and Sat Jan 31, 11:30–12:45, PSB 110

VOICE

Gorilla Choir • A playful vocal workshop for all ages—no experience needed. Led by Kevin (and friends), you'll sing along to live guitar and familiar tunes while exploring your voice any way you like: harmonize, howl, chant, or simply listen. There's no right or wrong—just curiosity and freedom. Let your inner wildness, diva, or dreamer emerge as you play with sound like a child in a sandbox. Sun Feb 1, 11:30–12:45, PSB 110

Sacred Harp Singing • Sacred Harp singing is an American traditional style of four-part a cappella, religious, community-based, shape-note singing. The music is powerful, moving and haunting. Singers are welcome without regard to experience, faith, or background. Rudimentary musical knowledge is helpful but not required. Sun Feb 1, 2:30–3:45, PSB 109

YOUTH

Alaska Children's Songs • Kids and families will sing original Alaska-themed children's songs along with some classics, learn some basics of music, and play instruments. They will even take one home with them to enjoy. 1–1.25-hour-long is great. Ages 1– any age :) Sat Jan 24, 10:00–11:15, PSB 110

Music Together: Music and Movement for

Families with Young Children (0–5 years) •

Did you know that all children are born musical? Join us as we build on your child's innate musical aptitude through play! Help your child discover their inner music-maker (and rediscover yours as well) with 45 minutes of singing, dancing, wiggling, and jamming as a community. You'll learn how music supports overall early childhood development and leave with new ways to incorporate music into your family's daily life.

Sun Jan 25, 10:00–11:15, PSB 110

Singing Folk Games, Dances, and Songs for

Kids • Simple and fun folk songs sung along to fun games and dances. (Ideal for Elementary-aged children, but all ages welcome!) Sun Feb 1, 10:00–11:15, PSB 110

Youth Contra Dance (All Ages Welcome ages 2 to 122) with Stephen Bahner • Anybody can learn how to do-si-do! Bring your dancing shoes and be prepared for a good time. This workshop is especially geared for kids and teens, but all are welcome! Sat Jan 31, 11:00–12:15, Main Stage



PICK + GRIN

Pick a membership or donation option to support Anchorage Folk Festival, then **grin** because you'll feel that good about it!

Membership starts at just \$25! Larger donations are also welcome. Membership fees and donations directly support the festival and events during the year. Visit the membership table to pick your option, or donate online at www.anchoragfolkfestival.org.



Join AFF now to help keep folk music and dance alive in our community.

You can also Pick. Click. Give. + GRIN! with your PFD.

Choose to donate to Anchorage Folk Festival when you file online for your PFD.



Help Us Keep Irish Traditions Alive in Alaska!

Join us for another year of exciting, Irish-inspired activities and events!

Join and you can influence the events you love and create the events you want to see happen!

- What does Ireland, Irish culture, or Irish heritage mean to you?
- How can we build the Irish Club of Alaska, so it thrives for generations to come?
- Join our fun and dynamic Club!!

www.irishalaska.org

The festival kicks off Thursday night at the Wendy...

PARLOR IN THE ROUND

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

Wendy Williamson Auditorium

FREE! 7-9:30 pm • Doors: 6:30 pm

Host: Kevin Worrell

SPONSORS

Atwood Foundation, Alaska State Council on the Arts,
KNBA 90.3, Anchorage Folk Festival

www.parlorintheround.com

Let's gather at **Parlor in the Round**. Borrowing from the guitar-pull tradition of porches and campfires, songwriters from all walks of Alaskan life (and some beyond) will trade songs and stories as they are inspired by each other. Tradition is cast aside as the musicians dive into collaborations, jocular inventions, and premeditated musings all based on written submissions from the audience.

Kevin Worrell draws out the strength and vulnerability of each artist while holding the crowd closely throughout the performance.

FEATURED ARTISTS



Eric Howk

Shonti Elder

Hunter Prueger

Eric Howk has been a point guard for countless acts on a global scale. Starting with major label success in the Seattle-based powerpop outfit The Lashes at the age of 19, he has since joined up with heavy hitters such as Dolour, Shelby Earl, Ruler, and many others, all of which led him to a spot with Portugal the Man, with whom he has appeared in over one thousand shows and recorded on multiple releases.

Eric is based in the woods outside of Portland, Oregon, with his wife Kassandra, two horses, two dogs, and no cats. He is currently touring in support of his first solo LP, titled *Skyking*.

Shonti Elder is an Alaskan fiddler and songwriter playing her music to lift your spirits; sweet and thoughtful songs ranging from silly to sad, expressing our shared experience. A voice that smiles.

She came to Alaska for a vacation and never moved back. "I love to play music that inspires people or makes them dance. I've recorded three albums and play on a number of other Alaskan recordings." For many years she's produced a weekly acoustic radio program for Anchorage public radio KSKA. You can hear *Traveling Music* on www.AlaskaPublic.org on Saturday nights at 8:00, or anytime on her website.

Hunter Prueger is a songwriter, composer, and saxophonist based in Austin and Anchorage. He is the songwriter and bandleader of the Austin-based experimental folk collective Middle Sattre (pronounced SAT-tree). Their debut album *Tendencies* is a heartfelt, chronological memoir of queer shame and the ongoing work of unlearning it.

Beyond Middle Sattre, Prueger composes contemporary classical music. His concert works—described by the *New Yorker's* Alex Ross as "fascinating and also somewhat nerve-wracking"—draw from *musique concrète* and ambient electronic music, with a focus on textural layering, found sound, and new playing techniques.

erichowk.com

shontieder.com

middlesattre.com/hunter-prueger

AUGUST 30—SEPTEMBER 5, 2026

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We at the Anchorage Folk Festival in Anchorage, Alaska,
also known as Dena'ina Etnena, say Chin'an to
the Dena'ina people for their stewardship of these
traditional lands since time immemorial and today.

Nedett'a yedna.

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www.thebassbooth.com (907) 231-9756 dangbooth@gmail.com

FRIDAY EVENING, JANUARY 23, 7 PM

Thunderbird Ukulele

This world-class ukulele ensemble from Bettye Davis East High School performs fun arrangements of pop songs using only different kinds of ukuleles—drums don't count. ☺
Kiel Schweizer directs a group of ukulele players from Bettye Davis East High School

Katie Scoggin

Katie is a singer-songwriter who has been performing at local venues since she was 11 years old. She released her debut album *Eleven* in 2018. She describes her music as acoustic/folk that draws on personal experience, surroundings, and reflection. *Katie Scoggin – vocals, guitar*

The reel teetotalers

Local musicians who love traditional Irish music! We dabble in music not as the high-minded but as a flock of ducks dabble for breadcrumbs in shallow muddy waters! *Covenant Faithfulness, Maya McDonald, Lisa Maloney, Avigail Curry*

Alaska Guitar Quartet

This classical guitar quartet brings together four accomplished musicians to explore a vibrant mix of musical styles. From classical masterpieces to contemporary arrangements, their performances highlight the expressive range and rhythmic vitality of the classical guitar. *Armin Abdihodžić, Mischa Shimek, Daniel Nielson Ley, and Alexander Soboleff – classical guitars*

The Lulettes

The Lulettes met while providing their songwriting expertise to women and men in prisons speaking to their children through song. All accomplished musicians and songwriters in their own right, they continue to perform and delight audiences throughout Anchorage. *Hilary Morgan – guitar/vocals; Kippy Lanz – percussion, vocals; Dolores Catherino – bass, vocals; Suzanne Little – guitar, vocals; Tai Trujillo – guitar, vocals; Tamara Bustamante – piano, vocals*

Ten Dollar Bet

Traditional and café tunes. *Rose Fitch, Bill McDonald, Gary Fitch, and Mike Lane*

Bluestockings

Fine harmonies and favorite songs that we like to share. *Marianne See – guitar; Shonti Elder – fiddle; Suzanne Little – bass; Karl Wilhelm – mandolin*

Folks Tales

Dedicated to preserving acoustic music and the oral tradition one song and story at a time. We have been bringing you back home since 2001. *Dennis Cleary – guitar; Lindsay Lamar Schwietzer – fiddle; Leif Sawyer – double bass; Wayne Mitchell – washboard; Shane Mitchell – vocals; Erin Mitchell – vocals; Kristen Mumm – vocals*

★ Henhouse Prowlers

Jon Goldfine – bass; Jake Howard – mandolin; Ben Wright – banjo; Chris Dollar – guitar

Bluestockings at Hearth Artisan Pizza during Folk Week 2025





Guest Artists—Week 1

Henhouse Prowlers

Rooted in tradition yet unafraid to venture into new musical territory, the **Henhouse Prowlers** occupy a space that defies easy categorization—one that is consistently fresh, relevant, and captivating. To date, this Chicago-rooted band has toured 30 countries across five continents, collaborating with the U.S. State Department and through their own nonprofit, **Bluegrass Ambassadors**.

With two decades proudly under their belts, the Prowlers' sight remains fixed on the future. Ever constant in the group's electric performances is their ability to showcase their passion for music and people. All four members possess a knack for storytelling, compelling songwriting, and intricate instrumentation; each offers the utmost artistic prowess, building on one another's magic night after night. The lineup is **Jon Goldfine** on bass, **Jake Howard** on mandolin, **Ben Wright** on banjo, and **Chris Dollar** on guitar, with **Ian Goodman** as their sound engineer.

APPEARANCES

Friday, January 23

Main Stage Performance

Wendy Williamson Auditorium
Local artist acts at 7 pm followed by
Henhouse Prowlers at 9 pm

Saturday, January 24

Concert | \$30/ticket, 21+

Odd Man Rush Brewing, Eagle River
Doors: 7 pm
Performance: 7:30 pm - Wiley Post
8:30 pm - Henhouse Prowlers
See p. 25

Sunday, January 25

Workshops | See p. 26

PSB 109 and 110 at 1:00–2:15 pm
PSB 110 2:30–3:45 pm

Main Stage Performance

Wendy Williamson Auditorium
Local artist acts at 7 pm followed by
Henhouse Prowlers at 8:45 pm



henhouseprowlers.com

LET'S DANCE!



- Six free dance workshops
(no experience necessary)

- Two ticketed events with
live music (buy tickets at
anchoragefolkfestival.org/2026-tickets)

SAT, JAN 24 | IRISH CEILI DANCING

11:00 am–12:15 pm • Wendy Williamson Main Stage
FREE. Come learn (or practice) Irish ceili (sounds like “kay-lee”) dances! Don’t worry, it’s not Riverdance—the closest American equivalent is contra dancing. No partner or experience needed and all ages are welcome, but kids please keep your responsible adult handy...and adults, you may need to help smaller children through the dance. We’ll have live music from the Red Cap family band!

SAT, JAN 24 | HENHOUSE PROWLERS & WILEY POST IN CONCERT

7 pm • Odd Man Rush Brewing

10930 Mausel Street, Eagle River

Fundraiser: \$30 • 21+ only

BUY TICKETS



7:00 pm Doors open

7:30 pm Wiley Post

8:30 pm Henhouse Prowlers
see p. 25

SUN, JAN 25 | IRISH FOLK DANCING –A BLEND OF MULTIPLE TYPES

9:30–10:45 am • Wendy Williamson Main Stage
FREE. Have you ever admired the lively steps of Irish dancers or found yourself tapping your foot to a catchy tune? Join us for a beginner-friendly continuation of Céilí—Irish social dancing. Sharing roots with many styles of folk dancing like contra and even country, our dances are performed in groups, forming intricate patterns that are as much fun to dance as they are to watch. These classes will build on the beginning class, expanding to include set dancing and other group dances. First weekend class recommended but not required. Join us as individual, couple, or bring a group; dancers can dance any role they choose, and you will dance with different people as the session progresses.

SUN, JAN 25 | INTRODUCTION TO SOLO JAZZ

11:00 am–12:15 pm • Wendy Williamson Main Stage
FREE. Solo jazz is a highly improvisational dance style that emerged from African American communities. While most people recognize the Charleston, solo jazz includes so many other moves like the Suzie Q, Fall off the Log, and Boogie Forward. In this beginner class, we’ll learn a few moves that you can mix and match and add your own style. No partner or dance experience necessary. Just bring water and comfortable clothes and shoes.

THU, JAN 29 | BARN DANCE

7–10:30 pm • Spenard Community Recreation Center

2020 West 48th Avenue

Fundraiser: \$20 adults/ \$10 UAA students with current ID; kids 13 & under are free

Band: The Faux Paws • Caller: Brian DeMarcus

BUY TICKETS



No experience is needed! Just bring your sense of fun...and clean-soled shoes to dance in. Come early for instruction. See p. 39.

SAT, JAN 31 | YOUTH CONTRA DANCE

11:00 am–12:15 pm • Wendy Williamson Main Stage

FREE. Anybody can learn how to do-si-do! Bring your dancing shoes and be prepared for a good time. This workshop is especially geared for kids and teens, but all are welcome!

SUN, FEB 1 | IRISH FOLK DANCING –A BLEND OF MULTIPLE TYPES

9:30–10:45 am • Wendy Williamson Main Stage

FREE. See description at left.

SUN, FEB 1 | SWING DANCE

11:00 am–12:15 pm • Wendy Williamson Main Stage

FREE. Learn the basics of swing dancing to the live music of Hot Club of Nunaka. All dancers welcome; no experience needed.

Links for purchasing tickets to the two off-site concerts can also be found on the Anchorage Folk Festival website at anchoragefolkfestival.org/tickets



the **Dancing Bears** ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

Twice monthly contra dances
to traditional music performed
by local musicians

Welcoming and inclusive dance community.

Beginner's lesson before every dance.

No partner necessary.



Our next dance is February 13th at
7:15 PM at the Spenard Recreation
Center at 2020 W 48th Ave.

Follow the Dancing Bears on IG/FB @thedancingbearssak
Find us online at thedancingbears.org



JOHN ASBJØRN OSNES
MAKER of VIOLINS, VIOLAS & CELLO

8900 Jupiter Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99507
907-346-3609, www.osnesviolins.com johnno@osnesviolins.com

FREE WORKSHOPS: WEEK 1

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

Workshop descriptions are on pages 8–12.

Ⓐ Main Stage workshops have different start times than PSB workshops.

Schedules subject to change.

FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION,

Check in the lobby or go to

www.anchoragfolkfestival.org/workshops



PROFESSIONAL STUDIES BUILDING (ADJACENT TO THE WENDY WILLIAMSON)

WENDY WILLIAMSON
AUDITORIUM

	PSB 210	PSB 109	PSB 110	Main Stage
10:00–11:15 am			Alaskan Children's Songs and Making Music with Nikki Scherer	9:30–10:45 Ⓢ Microphones, Monitors, and Other Mysteries of Live Sound with Lucy Peckham and Crew
11:30 am–12:45 pm	Acoustic Guitar Construction Show-and-Tell with David Gerard	Acoustic (aka Folk or Country) Blues Basics with Bill Ostrand	Polishing Your Performance with Robin Hopper, Marianne See, and Caiti Hopper	11:00–12:15 Ⓢ Irish Ceili Dancing with Lisa Maloney and Red Cap and the Empty Nesters
1–2:15 pm	Mandolin 201 with Heather Thomas		Acoustic Fingerstyle Guitar with John Cook	
2:30–3:45 pm	Creating Memorable Songs (Two parts back-to-back) with Robin Hopper	Bluegrass Banjo with Kevin Cassity	Fiddle Tunes for All Instruments with Mary Schallert	
4:00–5:15 pm		Beginning Jamming and Improvisation with Kevin Cassity	Blues and Jazz Guitar 102 with Joe Craig	

These workshops are free to all participants. Children under 8 are welcome to attend with adult supervision, unless otherwise noted. The **Workshop Index**, pp 8–12, shows all workshops by topic.



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SATURDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 24, 1 PM

Ms Miriah's Band

Kids playing folk tunes. *Miriah Phelps and students on fiddle and guitar*

Anna Joy 1:15 pm

Anna Joy is a goth-adjacent party-princess who works in a busy medical clinic by day and is a Folk Punk singer-songwriter by night. A mother of five, she puts her heart and soul into everything she does, whether it's writing a searing anthem or tucking her kids in at night. Follow her (and her mandolin, Florence) on IG for performance dates @nightingaleak or on YouTube @ gothadjacentpartyprincess. *Anna Joy – vocals and mandolin*

Paul Sangl

This will be Paul's sixth time playing and singing at the Anchorage Folk Festival. He writes and performs his own original songs, drawing from many different influences and experiences. His 2024 album *Palms and Pete's* is available as a real CD or on almost any streaming platform, (Spotify, Apple Music, etc.). Paul will also be performing during Folk Week with Gregor Rakoski as **GRAMPS** at Organic Oasis on Monday the 26th at 6:00, then at Sleepy Dog Coffee Company on Tuesday the 27th as GRAMPS from 5:00 to 7:00. *Paul Sangl – guitar*

We Might Panik

From Palmer, Scott and Becky have been singing together since 2018 as an acoustic duo.

Scott Oviatt – guitar, mandolin, vocals;

Becky Oviatt – vocals

db pedersen

db pedersen returns to AFF with tales from the Driftless region of Wisconsin. Accompanied by his menagerie of voices, he'll recall a tale or two from Taliesin. *db pedersen – voice, bass, drone, flute*

Arlene Slocum

Folk songs of Alaskan life Arlene Slocum

Alaska Sound Celebration Chorus

We are a portion of the award-winning Alaska Sound Celebration Chorus of Sweet Adelines International singing a cappella. *Melodee Risi – Director*

Terry Kelly

Terry is a singer/songwriter performing folk/pop songs about life in Alaska. Think George Harrison, John Prine, and Elliot Smith sharing a cabin on the Iditarod Trail. *Terry Kelly – guitar and vocals*



Dawn Berg

Singing songs of love, solidarity, and humor by songwriters I've met or admired. Watch for Velcro, Oreos, pangolins, foxes, or hares to make an appearance! *Dawn Berg – a capella voice*

Dave Gerard

Acoustic guitar and singing, Celtic, country, bluegrass, reggae, and '70s pop tunes. Using one of my handmade guitars. *Dave Gerard – guitar*

Summer Star

Summer Star's intimate songs blend expressive guitar and unguarded lyrics, offering reflections on love, healing, and the beauty of being human. *Summer Star Engler – guitar, vocals*

Bill Falsey

Bill is a guitar and piano player who is happy to share a few cover songs. *Bill Falsey – guitar, piano, vocals*

Pamela Pope and the Martyn Family

Three generations of friends and family that like to sing. Martyn kids' first time on AFF stage.

Pam Pope – voice and guitar; Julie, Reagan, Solstice, and Avie Martyn – voice (and there may be one or two violins)

Outer Bend

A trio of friends with overlapping influences and bended-together guitar and vocal approaches explore Americana, Blues, and Folk for fun, personal entertainment, and sharing!

*Patrick Curtis - guitar, harmonica, vocals;
Matt Emerson - guitar, vocals;
Jim Reeves - guitar, vocals*

Vinter.Baer

@Vinter.Baer is an Anchorage-based artist who calls on his Rust Belt roots to ground his music in the blues and folk traditions. With an upbeat guitar and rich lyrics, his music captures both the pain and beauty of life's journey.

Nate Bishop – guitar, vocals

Mary Walker & the Takonis

Will perform a Koyukon Athabaskan song, a country song, and a contemporary song.

*Mary Walker – vocals/rhythm guitar;
Jerry John – lead guitar; Frank Hunter – bass*



907-746-PASS (7277)

SATURDAY EVENING, JANUARY 24, 7 PM

terry re.e.d

terry re.e.d is a singer/songwriter who has lived in Alaska for 20 years teaching in public schools across the state. Writing his own material since the age of 12 and jumping on stage every chance that was available. Blending Rock, Soul, Americana, and Roots music. *terry re.e.d – artist, guitar, tenor mandola, harmonica, mandolin*

Lulu & Suzy

A pair of Valley girls with a combined century of stage performances under their belts, teaming up to prove that some things just get better with age. *Lulu Small (aka the Diva of Delirium) – guitar, vocals; Suzy Crosby (aka the Harmony Junkie) – guitar, vocals*

John Cook

Singer songwriter, known for fingerstyle guitar, open tunings, and an alternative folk/blues songwriting style. Also leading a fingerstyle guitar workshop. *John Cook Guitar and vocals*

Fiona and the Beans

Fiona and musical (and life partner) Logan are back—this time with a baby Bean...and some new tunes! *Fiona Rose – guitar and vocals; Logan Bean – upright bass, vocals; Baby Callan – vocals (probably)*

Moon Ladder

Moon Ladder is an instrumental trio bringing warmth, swing, and intimacy to every room we play. With original songs, and a shared love of the jazz tradition, we create a sound that feels both vintage and alive in the moment.

Forest Wilson – guitar; Kevin Taylor – guitar; Silas Hoffman – bass

Jonny J and some Whiskey Fish

Edgy Folk with a bone to pick—honest storytelling with grit.

Jonathan Hutchinson – guitar, vocals; Joel Bran – bass, vocals; Nelson Crone – percussion

Steve Durr

Acoustic-based alternative folk singer songwriter specializing in Alaskan themes. *Steve Durr*

Mountain Waxwings

Soaring bluegrass harmonies from these Matanuska Valley girls. *Suzy Crosby – guitar, vocals; Melanie Keenan – fiddle, vocals; Jessica Campbell – vocals*

The Squash Blossoms

Three gals who love to play and sing harmonies together. Our list of original songs is growing, and we like folksy Americana covers as well. *Peggy Finnegan – guitar; Amy Hayes – mandolin; Jessica Speed – bass*

Landbridge Tollbooth

Alaska's far-northwest old time band. Come and listen for good energy, vocal harmonies, and a good old time! *Jim Dory – banjo; Carol Gales – accordion; Anahma Shannon – fiddle; Tyler Rhodes – guitar; Laura Davis Collins – bass*

Jubilee

Fiddle tunes, flute tunes, concertina tunes, hammered dulcimer tunes, with guitar backup. *Elsa Aegeuter – flute; Denise Martin – hammered dulcimer / concertina; Shonti Elder – fiddle; Jim Kerr – guitar*

Isaiah Unzicker

A collection of original songs inspired by historic English and Irish folk tunes, as well as artists such as Fleet Foxes, Bert Jansch, Sufjan Stevens. *Isaiah Unzicker – voice, guitar, piano*

Rosie Rush

Vocal and guitar indie folk/ new folk singer songwriter. *Rosie Rush – vocals and guitar*

Phoenix

The American folk pop duo Phoenix consists of award-winning songwriters Tim and Kathy Crosby—who have been performing together for well over two decades. They have performed together from Las Vegas to Nashville, in venues large and small. Being compared to the likes of Willie Nelson, Gillian Welch, and David Rawlings,

Mary Travers, and June Carter Cash, Phoenix rises in the joy of a sound that highlights the multi-instrumental talents of both musicians while focusing on a variety of vocal styles and abilities. *Tim Crosby* – acoustic guitar, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, Hawaiian guitar, lead and harmony vocals; *Kathy Crosby* – acoustic guitar, bass, ukulele, lead and harmony vocals



**Anchorage Folk Festival
2026 Guest Artist
Henhouse Prowlers**



Saturday, January 24, 2026

Odd Man Rush Brewing

10930 Mausel Street, Eagle River
Doors: 7 pm • Performance: 7:30 pm
\$30 • Ages 21+

BUY TICKETS



**Opening: Anchorage Folk Festival
2026 Guest Artist**

Wiley Post



Wiley Post sounds like the Alaska landscapes we live in—lush, raw, and a little heartbroken. They're grateful to create original music supported by our community, blending honest songwriting with memorable melodies.

Over the past five years, this band of longtime friends has been performing across Alaska, steadily honing their craft and carving out a unique sound.

wileypostband.com

WILEY POST

Sadie Arneson – Lead Vocals
Tony Piecuch – Lead Guitar
Connor Smith – Vocals, Cello, Guitar
Elan Edgerly – Drums
Greg Siegel – Bass



FREE WORKSHOPS: WEEK 1

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

Shaded slots indicate Guest Artist workshops.

Workshop descriptions are on pages 8–12.

Ⓐ Main Stage workshops have different start times than PSB workshops.

Schedules subject to change.

FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION,

Check in the lobby or go to

www.anchoragfolkfestival.org/workshops



PROFESSIONAL STUDIES BUILDING (ADJACENT TO THE WENDY WILLIAMSON)

WENDY WILLIAMSON
AUDITORIUM

PSB 210	PSB 109	PSB 110	Main Stage
10:00–11:15 am		Music Together: Music and Movement for Families with Young Children (0–5 years) with Music Together Mountain Song	9:30–10:45 Ⓢ Irish Folk Dancing—A Blend of Multiple Types with Kevin Reinhardt
11:30 am–12:45 pm	Beginner Ukulele with Wendy Luft	Travis Picking Fingerstyle Guitar with Tim Samuelson	11:00–12:15 Ⓢ Dance Workshop: Introduction to Solo Jazz with Bionca Davis and the Rabbit Creek Wranglers
1–2:15 pm		Mandolin with Guest Artist Jake Howard of Henhouse Prowlers	Bluegrass Bass with Guest Artist Jon Goldfine of Henhouse Prowlers
2:30–3:45 pm		Feldenkrais for Musicians with Kevin Cassity	Bluegrass Ambassadors: Finding Common Chords in Music and Across Humanity with Guest Artists Henhouse Prowlers
4:00–5:15 pm		Acoustic Jam and Song Circle with terry re.ed	Zen of Music Theory I with Jerry George

These workshops are free to all participants. Children under 8 are welcome to attend with adult supervision, unless otherwise noted. The **Workshop Index**, pp 8–12, shows all workshops by topic.



We are proud
to support the
2026 Anchorage
Folk Festival.

MAIN STAGE PERFORMANCES: WEEK 1

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 25, 1 PM

EMCEE: FOTOKALAFI VEA, UAA

Down from Lazy Mountain

This is our seventh year as a husband-and-wife duo. We like duets and vocal harmony and love songs that tell a story. *Mike Hansen - guitar; Betty Hansen - mandolin and percussion*

Gary Stedman

I play an eclectic mix of classic rock, country, and blues. *Gary Stedman*

KG on the sax

Various tunes on a saxophone.

Kathy Goins - saxophone

The Good Ol' Good Ones

Traditional Celtic: Scottish/Irish tunes and songs. *Charlie Rogge - tin whistle; Patrick Flaherty - banjo/mandolin; Covenant Faithfulness - bodhrán/guitar*

Christina Napoleon

Honest and melodic originals. *Christina Napoleon - guitar*

Steve Waldron

I play guitar and sing, mostly music from the '60s and '70s (my youth). I'm into folk, folk rock, country, country rock, blues, etc., and my musical influences include Townes Van Zant, Dylan, Jackson Browne, John Prine, Joni Mitchell, and many more. I also write songs and might throw in one or two originals this year. *Steve Waldron - guitar*

Wings to Fly

Trio of high-flying harmonies.

Shonti Elder - fiddle, vocal; Elsa Aegeerter - guitar, vocal; Karl Wilhelm - mandolin, vocal

Pt Mackenzie

Father-daughter harmonies for stage or campfire.

Dean Paulson - vocals, guitar; Sophie Paulson - vocals, guitar; Sadie Paulson - vocals



What began as an espresso cart on Anchorage's 4th Avenue in the spring of 1986 is now Alaska's premier coffee roaster.

Kaladi Brothers Coffee is made in Alaska, by Alaskans.

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Huffman • Jewel Lake • Midtown CARRS • Titlewave
Tudor • JL Tower • Centerpoint • Brayton
City Market • Wasilla • New Sagaya

<https://kaladi.com/>

The Twistys

A diverse group of musicians who enjoy harmonizing to classic tunes and creating “music with a twist” for all ages.

Tim Tucker - vocal and guitar; Natalie Tucker - vocal; Joan Unger - vocal and mandolin; Felicia Cassel - vocal; Erica Ivy - vocal

jasalt

Julia Salt, who uses the stage name jasalt, is a singer-songwriter originally from Florida and has lived in Anchorage three years. Songwriting and finding her different musical styles has been one the most healing modalities in her life. Some of these original songs are a part of a larger album called *From Applauded to a Problem* that you can find online. *Julia Salt - piano/keyboard*

Cladouhos Family Band

Back for our third folk fest happily sharing our family love of music. *Joel Cladouhos, Greta Cladouhos, Tova Cladouhos, Della Cladouhos*

Ruby Rakes

Pickin' dadgrass. *Mike Doyle - guitar; Charlie Hampton - banjo; Chad Koker - mandolin; Ryan McLaughlin - fiddle; Sashi Parameswaran - guitar; Eric Stuart - bass*

Arctic Diamonds

We love to share music from our hearts. *Lyn Franks - guitar; Kris Nesteby - guitar*

Sam Thorne

Acoustic covers of folk songs by a West High School junior. *Sam Thorne - acoustic guitar, vocals*

Patrick McCormick

Part of the whistling swan dynasty; what else do you need to know? *Patrick McCormick*

Alaska City Folk Arts

Have been performing in some form since the very first festival. *Attendees and/or teachers of any past camps or sessions*

Anchorage Folk Festival 2026 Guest Artist

The Roland Roberts Band

at the 2025 festival



©Ayden Smith Photography

MAIN STAGE PERFORMANCES: WEEK 1

SUNDAY EVENING, JANUARY 25, 7 PM

EMCEES: BRETT JOKELA & TERRI MCCOY

Anchorage Mandolin Orchestra

We're an orchestra. Armin Abdihodžić - conductor; 20 orchestra members playing mandolins, mandolas, octave mandolins, mandocello, guitar, bass

The Apple and the Tree

Mary and Miles have been playing together for 33 years. We sometimes go by the name of New York City Boys. *Mary Schallert and Miles Allen and Friends*

Hannah Yoter

Homegrown Alaskan gal, recovering her love of music. *Hannah Yoter*

Robin Hopper

Award-winning songwriter from Chugiak. *Robin Hopper - guitar and vocals*

Jin Ave

Jin Ave is a multigenre band with folk leanings. They write and perform original songs. Their second album, *Light Emitting Molecules*, is due Spring 2026. *Levi Adams - vocals, guitar, harmonica; Chris Dalton - bass, trumpet; Joe Sheppard - percussion; Mike Simpson - guitar, banjo, uke*

Marty Raney

As a longtime Alaskan, mountain guide, contractor, musician, and host of Discovery's Homestead Rescue (along with his son, Matt, and daughter, Misty), Marty and Matt will perform an eclectic mix of Alaskana music both written and produced by Marty from his music albums: *If That Bus Could Talk... and Strummit from the Summit*. *Marty Raney - vocals, guitar; Matt Raney - vocals, mandolin*

LuLu Small

LuLu is known as Alaska's First Lady of Entertainment and the Diva of Delirium for over 47 years, with a five-octave vocal range that sometimes scares people! Also featured yearly at the state fair and various other performances locally. *LuLu Small - acoustic/electric guitar*

★ Henhouse Prowlers

Learn about the band on page 17!
Jon Goldfine - bass; Jake Howard - mandolin; Ben Wright - banjo; Chris Dollar - guitar



GOT RAFFLE TICKETS?

We've got fab prizes from generous donors!

**Tickets are just \$10 each, plus a processing fee, in the lobby or online.
Details on page 4.**





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**IS OUR
PRIORITY**

Alaska Neurology Center gladly sponsors Anchorage Folk Festival who are a nonprofit organization that support local music and strengthen our community.

**CONTACT US:
907-565-6000**

www.aknc.com

Master Schedule

All events are free and take place at the **Wendy Williamson Auditorium** (and most workshops at the adjacent Professional Studies Building), except as noted

To view this schedule as a single page, tap or click [here](#).

★ Guest Artists

▲ Bring instrument

● Main Stage / PSB Rooms

■ In town or region

✗ Got to be 21+

* Could be dancing!

◆ Learn new tricks

\$ Purchase tickets for fundraiser

Workshops (featuring 25)

- Guest Artist Henhouse
- ★ Prowlers | UAA
- ◆ Professional Studies
- * Building/Main Stage | 9:45 am–5:15 pm | p. 26

Main Stage Performances

- with Local Acts | 1–5 pm | pp. 28–29

Folk Week event: Open Mic Night at Hightower Pub

- | p. 34

Raffle Draw

- Main Stage | ~8:30 pm | p. 4

Main Stage Performances

- with Local Acts and Guest Artist | 7–10 pm | p. 30 |

Henhouse Prowlers

- 8:45 pm | bio p. 17

Workshops (featuring 1)

- Guest Artist the Faux Paws)
- | UAA Professional Studies
- * Building/Main Stage | 10 am–5:15 pm | p. 50

Main Stage Performances

- with Local Acts | 1–5 pm | pp. 52–53

Raffle Draw

- Main Stage | ~8:30 pm | p. 4

Main Stage Performances

- with Local Acts and Guest Artist | 7–10 pm | p. 54 |

The Faux Paws

- 8:45 pm | bio p. 37

Folk Week events at 26

- Middle Way Café, Hearth Artisan Pizza, Organic Oasis, Sleepy Dog Coffee Co., and Reilly's Irish Pub | p. 34

Folk Week events at 27

- Middle Way Café, Hearth Artisan Pizza, Sleepy Dog Coffee Co., Reilly's Irish Pub, Organic Oasis, and Guido's Pizza | p. 34

Folk Week events at 28

- Middle Way Café, Hearth Artisan Pizza, Sleepy Dog Coffee Co., Reilly's Irish Pub, Organic Oasis, and Guido's Pizza | p. 34

Fundraiser

- ✗ 49th State E

The Horsemen

- \$ Hannah Rea

- | \$20 in adva

- \$25 at door



But wait...there's more! To mark the end of the festival, **Bell's Nursery & Gifts** will be hosting folk music you'll love, **February 14**, noon to 5 pm.

Bell's Nursery
13700 Specking Avenue • 907-345-4476

<p>22</p> <p>● Parlor in the Round ★ featuring guest artists Eric Hawk, Shonti Elder, and Hunter Prueger 7–9:30 pm pg. 14</p>	<p>23</p> <p>● Main Stage Performances with Local Acts and Guest Artist 7–10 pm p. 16 Guest Artist Henhouse Prowlers, 9 pm bio p. 17</p>	<p>24</p> <p>● Workshops UAA ◆ Professional Studies ✳ Building/Main Stage ▲ 9 am–5:15 pm p. 20</p> <p>● Main Stage Performances 1–5 pm and 7–10 pm pp. 22–25</p> <p>■ Guest Artists Henhouse Prowlers and Wiley Post ★ Odd Man Rush 21+ ✗ Doors – 7 pm, Music – ✳ 7:30 pm \$30 p. 25 \$</p>
<p>events at 28 Café, Hearth a, Sleepy Dog Organic Oasis, Pub, Guido's ond Blues, and rewing p. 34</p> <p>Concert Brewing ecks and d 21+ 8 pm ance / p. 35</p>	<p>■ Folk Week events at 29 Guido's Pizza and Reilly's Irish Pub p. 34</p> <p>■ Barn Dance ★ Spenard Community ✳ Recreation Center \$ Doors – 7 pm, Dance 7:30–10:30 Caller – Brian DeMarcus Music – Guest Artist the Faux Paws \$20/\$10/Free p. 39</p>	<p>■ Folk Week ends with 30 ▲ live music at Hightower Pub and Ukulele Jam at Guido's Pizza 7–9 pm p. 34</p> <p>● Main Stage Performances ★ with Local Acts and Guest Artist 7–10 pm p. 40 Guest Artist the Faux Paws, 9 pm bio p. 37</p> <p>● Workshops UAA 31 ◆ Professional Studies ✳ Building/Main Stage ▲ 9 am–5:15 pm p. 42</p> <p>● Main Stage Performances with Local Acts 1–5 pm and 7–10 pm pp. 44–47</p> <p>● Music Instrument Swap ▲ PSB 109 1–6 pm p. 45</p> <p>● Banjo Contest AHS 106 3–5:15 pm pp. 48–49</p> <p>● Annual AFF Members Meeting PSB 101 5:15 pm p. 42</p> <p>★ Guest Artist the Roland Roberts Band Main Stage 9 pm bio p. 47</p>

Get your tickets for paid events
and become a member at
anchoragefolkfestival.org



Folk Week

All events are free-admission except for the Barn Dance and the Horsenecks concert.

Sunday, January 25

Hightower Pub

7-10 Open Mic Night



Monday, January 26

Middle Way Café

2-4 pm Jim Haack &
John Schlorer

Hearth Artisan Pizza

5 pm Tim Samuelson
6 pm Squash Blossoms
7 pm Gal Pals

Organic Oasis

5 pm Vinter.Baer
6 pm GRAMPS (Paul Sangl
& Gregor Rakoski)
7 pm Service Kobelnyk

Reilly's Irish Pub

6 pm Phoenix
7 pm Ruby Rakes
8 pm Mike and Matt

Sleepy Dog Coffee Co.

5:30-7 pm Shaun Pacarro

Tuesday, January 27

Middle Way Café

2-4 pm Ryan Michael Forté
5 pm Bosca Ceoil
6 pm Lou Nathanson
7 pm Bluestockings

Hearth Artisan Pizza

5 pm Denise and Jim
6 pm Anna Joy

Sleepy Dog Coffee Co.

5-7 pm GRAMPS (Paul
Sangl & Gregor Rakoski)

Organic Oasis

7-9 pm Irish Session

Guido's Pizza

7-9 pm Paddle Boat Jam

Reilly's Irish Pub

6 pm sixteen.five
7 pm John Cook
8 pm most definitely not the
legs of jake

Wednesday, January 28

Middle Way Café

3 pm Reed, Griffin & Friends
5 pm Denise and Jim
6 pm Anna Joy

Hearth Artisan Pizza

5 pm Red Cap & the Empty
Nesters

Sleepy Dog Coffee Co.

6 pm Rowan and Belle
7 pm Terry Kelly

Organic Oasis

6-8 pm Songwriters
Showcase

Turnagain Brewing

4 pm Arctic Diamonds
5 pm Jin Ave
6 pm Uncle Jim and
Brother John
7 pm Turnagain Blues

Vagabond Blues

5-7 pm Suzy Crosby and
Friends

Reilly's Irish Pub

6 pm Tucker Tunes
7 pm Sweet Pow
8 pm Midnight Sun Zombies

Guido's Pizza

7-9 pm An Irish Trad Jam

49th State Brewing

8 pm The Horsenecks &
Hannah Read
\$20 in advance / \$25 at door

Thursday, January 29

Reilly's Irish Pub

6 pm Vik & the Vapor Rubs
7 pm Ten Dollar Bet
8 pm Super Saturated
Sugar Strings

Guido's Pizza

7-9 pm Old Time Jam

**Spenard Community
Recreation Center**

7:30-10:30 pm
**Barn Dance with
the Faux Paws** (p. 39)

Friday, January 30

Guido's Pizza

7-9 pm Alaska Jumping
Fleas Ukulele Jam

Hightower Pub

6-9 live music

...Free Live Music around Town!

VENUE ADDRESSES

49th State Brewing

717 W 3rd Ave • 907-277-7727

Guido's Pizza

549 West International Airport Road • 907-563-2222

Hearth Artisan Pizza

1200 West Northern Lights Boulevard, Suite F • 907-2220-888

Hightower Pub

165 Hightower Road, Girdwood • 907-865-8193

Middle Way Café

1200 West Northern Lights Boulevard, Suite G • 907-272-6433

Organic Oasis

2610 Spenard Road • 907-277-7882

Reilly's Irish Pub

317 West Fireweed Lane • 907-274-6132

Sleepy Dog Coffee Company

11517 Old Glenn Highway, Eagle River • 907-694-6463

Turnagain Brewing

7920 King Street • 907-646-2337

Vagabond Blues

642 South Alaska Street, Suite #208, Palmer • 907-745-2233



Songwriters Showcase

Hey, songwriters! Anyone with an original song is welcome to participate; come and share yours in a round-robin format. **Organic Oasis** is our gracious host venue, so have dinner or dessert or a glass of wine even if you aren't a songwriter. Listening to original songs is always great, and the opportunity to share your music is a special gift!

Host: Robin Hopper

Organic Oasis
2610 Spenard Road
Wednesday, January 28
6-8 pm

anchorage folk festival
PRESENTS

THE HORSENECKS & HANNAH READ

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 28TH, 2026

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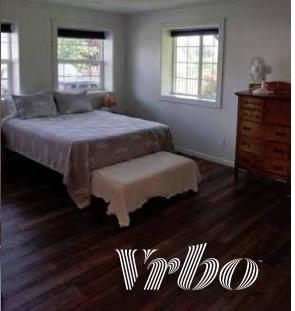
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The Faux Paws



Guest Artists—Week 2

The Faux Paws

Musically impossible to describe, they don't even fit into today's often hyphenated music scene. No fan, industry expert, nor member of the band can seem to sum up their sound in any kind of marketable way.

Is it bluegrass? Not usually. Old-time? Occasionally. Is it Celtic? Can't quite say that. Is it Folk? Americana? Jazz? Singer-songwriter? Members of the Paws **Andrew VanNorstrand**, **Noah VanNorstrand**, **Chris Miller**, and **Chris Sartori** have deep ties to all of these traditions and blend their elements effortlessly to serve whatever musical idea is being presented.

They're dynamic, exciting, sincere, irreverent, infectious, and surprising. They move deftly between moods, influences and instruments but always maintaining a "groove" that pulses through the music like a heartbeat—virtuosity on the fiddle, mandolin, guitar and saxophone, sure, but also vulnerability, personal lyrics, tight three-part brother harmonies, playful interplay, intricately arranged details, and soaring improvisations.

But spending too many words talking about this stuff detracts from the fact that it's the original songs—and heart—that keep folks coming back for more. In the band's 12th year they returned to the studio and emerged with an EP showcasing a huge amount of music in a five-track sampler. The live energy is on full display, with very little added. The *Backburner* EP was released in April 2023 and reached Billboard's Top 10 Bluegrass Albums Chart.



thefauxpawsmusic.com

APPEARANCES

Thursday, January 29

Barn Dance
Spennard Community Recreation Center
2020 West 48th Avenue
7:30–10:30 pm
\$20 adults/ \$10 UAA
students with current ID/kids 13 & under are free. See p. 39

Friday, January 30

Main Stage Performance
Wendy Williamson Auditorium
Local artist acts at 7 pm followed by the Faux Paws at 9 pm

Sunday, February 1

Workshops | See p. 50
PSB 109 and 110 at 1:00–2:15 pm
PSB 110 at 2:30–3:45 pm

Main Stage Performance

Wendy Williamson Auditorium
Local artist acts at 7 pm followed by the Faux Paws at 8:45 pm



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*Kick up your
heels!*

Featuring Anchorage Folk Festival
2026 Guest Artist
The Faux Paws



THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026

Barn Dance

Spennard Community Recreation Center • 2020 West 48th Avenue

Doors: 7 pm | Dance: 7:30-10:30 pm | Caller: Brian DeMarcus

\$20 adults | \$10 UAA students with current ID | FREE kids 13 and under

No experience is needed! Just bring your
sense of fun...and clean-soled shoes to
dance in. Come early for instruction.



Laughing Molly

Mostly Irish with a touch of Appalachia. Terri McCoy - whistles, bodhrán, shruti box, vocals; Peggy Monaghan - guitar and vocals; Brooke Wood - cello, mandolin, fiddle, and vocals

Midnight Sun Zombies

It was 20 years ago today that the Zombies were first heard to play. They've been going in and out of style, but they're guaranteed to raise a smile. We hope you enjoy our acoustic renditions of old time, classic pop, and newgrass. *Todd Kelsey - guitar/banjo; Tim Gould - bass guitar; Nino Muniz - guitar; Brett Jokela - mandolin*

Cole Creek Revival

A trio trialing a set of folk tunes with carefully crafted harmonies and graceful guitar melodies. *Jonathan Schick and Nicole Swenson on rhythm guitar and vocals with Bryan Jipping creating magic as lead noodle guitarist*

Red Cap and the Empty Nesters

Mike Richardson Sr. plays Celtic music with his sons and daughters-in-law, but with the grandchildren all in (or out!) of college it's gonna be a much smaller group than in past years. The boys may have to go back to playing more than one instrument at a time, like they used to....

Mike Sr. - fiddle; Mike Jr. - bodhrán; Ben - guitar; Diann - banjo ukulele; Chris - mandolin; Anna Breuninger - bass fiddle

HarpDaddy

HarpDaddy is going back to his basic roots bringing creative songwriting, searing harmonica licks, and a bit of soul. *Darren Smith AKA HarpDaddy; others still in the works...typical for me but I'll bring a fun upbeat set*

Rogues & Wenches

Meet Rogues & Wenches, your favorite crew of "Irish Pub Balladeers" hailing from the vibrant shores of Anchorage! This spirited band of six musicians will whisk you away on a melodic journey through the heart of tradition with their acoustic instruments and lively harmonies. They masterfully blend traditional Irish and Scottish songs, rousing sea shanties, and cheeky pirate tunes, all sprinkled with a delightful twist of humor. Whether you're tapping your feet at a local pub or lounging at home, Rogues & Wenches guarantee an evening of vast enjoyment and spirited entertainment. Raise a pint and get ready to join the revelry—because this Irish pub band has a small, but enchanting, piratical problem! *Hunter Woofter is our percussionist, who plays the bodhrán, djembe, cajón, and bones and also serves as a lead vocalist. Devin Frey plays acoustic guitar, is a lead vocalist, and is our singer-songwriter. Harrison Jennings is an accomplished mandolin and violin player and sings backup. Elena Gonzales is a lead vocalist who also sings vocal harmonies and plays the tambourine. Erin Wells is a lead vocalist, provides vocal harmonies and musical arrangements, and plays a silver transverse flute. Lucia Tappero sings backup and plays the accordion.*

Lou Nathanson

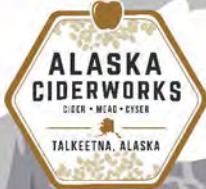
I've ridden all my sarongs for this year's Hang Courage Fake Feast of Vali using autocorrect! *Lou Nathanson - guitar, vocals; Kat Moore - keys, vocals; Dan Booth - bass; TBD - fiddle*

B Sharps

Fun music, good times, fun people! *Ezzy Allwright - cello; Eric Rodgers - fiddle, mando; Matt Faubion - guitar; Ian Wahl - mando; Harrison Jennings - fiddle, mando*

★ The Faux Paws

Learn about the band on page 37! *Chris Miller; Andrew VanNorstrand; Noah VanNorstrand*



DENALI BREWING

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FREE WORKSHOPS: WEEK 2

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

Workshop descriptions are on pages 8–12.

Ⓐ Main Stage workshops have different start times than PSB workshops.

Schedules subject to change.

FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION,

Check in the lobby or go to

www.anchoragfolkfestival.org/workshops



PROFESSIONAL STUDIES BUILDING (ADJACENT TO THE WENDY WILLIAMSON)

WENDY WILLIAMSON
AUDITORIUM

PSB 210	PSB 109	PSB 110	Main Stage
10:00–11:15 am			9:30–10:45 Ⓢ Microphones, Monitors, and Other Mysteries of Live Sound with Lucy Peckham and Crew
11:30 am–12:45 pm	What the Heck? Up the Neck! Mapping the Mandolin Fretboard with Brett Jokela	Beginner Ukulele with Wendy Luft	11:00–12:15 Ⓢ Youth Contra Dance (All Ages Welcome, Ages 2 to 122) with Stephen Bahner
1–2:15 pm	Artisan Song Crafting with Lou Nathanson	Instrument Swap —bring your instrument to sell, or come by and find that perfect hurdy-gurdy you've been needing.	★ AHS 106 ★ The Annual AFF Banjo Contest! Sign-up at 2:30 pm outside the door of AHS 106. Contest starts at 3:00.
2:30–3:45 pm	Zen of Music Theory II with Jerry George		
4:00–5:15 pm	Show Up and Jam! (This room is available for you at this time).	Improvising Melodies 101 with Joe Craig	
		AFF Annual Meeting starts @ 5:15 pm. All AFF Members are welcome!	

These workshops are free to all participants. Children under 8 are welcome to attend with adult supervision, unless otherwise noted. The **Workshop Index**, pp 8–12, shows all workshops by topic.

All AFF members are welcome at the AFF Annual Meeting!

Join us in the **Professional Studies Building Room 106** for a summary of Festival finances, to submit ideas for future guest artists, and to choose your new Board members for the 2026–29 director term.

Interested candidates for the Board should be current Anchorage Folk Festival members and must submit a short statement of interest with signatures of three current AFF members to a current Board member by Wednesday, January 28, 2026. There are no nominations of Board candidates from the floor.



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MAIN STAGE PERFORMANCES: WEEK 2

EMCEES: SASHI PARAMESWARAN & MICHAEL DOYLE

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 31, 1 PM

Anchorage Waldorf School

Orchestra

The Anchorage Waldorf School Orchestra Program will perform a handful of their favorite orchestral arrangements. Led by the Anchorage Waldorf School's orchestra and choir director, Amanda Kerr. The Anchorage Waldorf School is the only non-for-profit school in Anchorage with an Elementary Orchestra program for grades 4 and up. *Ms. Kerr and current and past students from the Anchorage Waldorf School Orchestra*

Turnagain Blues

Turnagain Blues focuses on playing acoustic blues that originated in the first half of the twentieth century, with an occasional original blues or folk song. They have been performing at the festival since 2016. *Sarah McCabe - vocals and bass; Bill Ostrand - guitars*

Hatton Greer

Local musician and songwriter seeking 15 minutes of fame. *Hatton Greer - guitar and (maybe) octave mandolin*

North Stars

Anya and Tessa are 8th graders who began making music at ages 4 and 5. A year ago, they combined their musical talents and began to perform a mix of jazz, blues, folk, country, classic rock, and musical theater. The North Stars will perform both covers and original music, with both Tessa and Anya on vocals, piano, and guitar. *Tessa Karaganis - piano, electric guitar, vocals; Anya McLaughlin - vocals, acoustic guitar, piano*

Three Fish in a Tree

Family band fun, from serious to silly. *Devin Frey - guitar, vocals; Kluonie Frey - vocal; Bill Frey - vocal; Shonti Elder - fiddle, vocal*

Santos



Lois Fedele and Karl Wilhelm

Lois Fedele sings original songs she has written and recorded; Karl Wilhelm accompanies her on guitar. *Lois Fedele - vocal; Karl Wilhelm - guitar*

Grayson and Kevin Band

Suzuki guitar. *Grayson Roberts - guitar; Kevin Cassidy - guitar*

Alaska Main Squeeze

We are a fun-loving group that performs a variety of folk, country, Cajun, waltzes, and polka, of course!! *Jason Ott, John McCleary, Jill Williams, Joyce Haugstad, Donnie Foss, Gary Stevens*

Jed Whitaker and friends

Musical Outlaw, who in another life has hung out with Kris Kristofferson, Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson, and other riffraff in some of the best dive bars in America. Jed will play some family-friendly tunes. *Jed Whitaker*

Evie and Nino

Melodic acoustic originals highlighted with soaring vocals and innovative guitar lines. *Evie Bear and Nino Muniz*

Griffin & Reed Guitar

Three guys playing music together, students of Kevin Cassity Playful Arts Studio.

Griffin Fencil - guitar; Reed Wirschem - guitar; Tommy Baldessari - keyboards

Aurora Kreiner

Aurora Kreiner (14) started writing songs at the age of 11 and won 3rd best song in the Country Music Hall of Fame "Journey of a Song" contest when she was 13. Aurora loves writing songs and sharing her music with the world. *Aurora Kreiner - vocals and guitar*

The Plumb Bobs

We're plumb but not square.

Miriah Phelps - fiddle; Jay Mullen - guitar

Chugiak Eagle River Jam Band

(CERJB)

We meet in the lobby of the Chugiak Senior Center every Monday from 6pm - 8pm. We welcome anyone who would like to play or sing to join us. Mostly ukuleles, a group of people that just love to play music together.

Chris Thompson & Friends

We perform Chris Thompson's original songs of love, changing times, and poignant reminders of the frailty of life's journey. These are tunefully honed by a band skilled in bringing these songs to life in a pleasing manner. *Chris Thompson - guitar and vocals; Rebecca Bingham - vocals; Rolfe Buzzell - harmonica and banjo; Harrison Jennings - mandolin and fiddle*

Alaska Suzuki Violin Students

We are a group of Suzuki violin students from the Anchorage area who perform pieces from memory with an adult leader. *Led by Karyn Grove-Bruce and Anchorage Suzuki Teachers*



Music Instrument Swap

Second Saturday
PSB 110 • 1-4 pm



SPRING EVENTS

January 31, Saturday, 7:30 pm, UAA Recital Hall

Voice of the Baroque Cello

John Lutterman, cello

February 28, Saturday, 7:30 pm, UAA Recital Hall

Symphony of Sounds

March 5, Thursday, 7:30 pm, UAA Recital Hall

University Wind Ensemble

March 22, Sunday, 4 pm, UAA Recital Hall

Rumi and Tim Smith, piano

April 3, Friday, 7:30 pm, UAA Recital Hall

Bach's Voice: From the Sublime to the Ridiculous

Early Music Ensemble, University Singers, ACC Chorale, and Guest Soloists

April 12, Sunday, 4 pm, UAA Recital Hall

Alaska Guitar Quartet

April 18 and 19, Saturday and Sunday, 4 pm and 7:30 pm, UAA Recital Hall

The Magic Flute

UAA Opera Ensemble

April 25, Saturday, 7:30 pm, UAA Mainstage Theatre

University Jazz Ensemble

April 26, Sunday, 4 pm, UAA Recital Hall

University Wind Ensemble

April 29, Wednesday, 7:30 pm, UAA Recital Hall

Chamber-Music Class Recital

April 30, Thursday, 7:30 pm, UAA Recital Hall

Piano Master Class Recital

May 1, Friday, 7:30 pm, UAA Recital Hall

Guest Artist: Scott Holden, piano

May 3, Sunday, 7 pm, UAA Recital Hall

Alaska Piano Competition Winners' Recital

The UAA Music Department offers dynamic opportunities for performers of all levels. Join our vibrant ensembles and experience the thrill of making music together. With expert faculty and a supportive community, UAA is the perfect place to grow as a musician and share your artistry. More information about the degrees, ensembles, faculty, and other general requirements can be found on our website: www.uaa.alaska.edu/music



SATURDAY EVENING, JANUARY 31, 7 PM

Bayou Glacé

We play and sing Cajun music from southern Louisiana in French. *Bill Allen - guitar; Beverly Grogan - fiddle; Suzanne Little - bass; Ellen Partch - triangle; Eric Stice - fiddle; Celine Vaillancourt - accordion*

Tim Samuelson

Tim plays fingerstyle guitar with a Travis-picking groove that tips its hat to Chet Atkins, Jerry Reed, and Elizabeth Cotten. Expect thumb-driven bass lines, melody on top, and a few surprises in between. Terry mixes instrumental fireworks with warm, easygoing vocals. It's rootsy, rhythmic, and a whole lot of fun. *Tim Samuelson - guitar, vocals*

The Anchorage Midnight Sons

Chorus

The Midnight Sons are Anchorage's men's a capella chorus. A chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, the Midnight Sons were chartered in 1967 and have performed across Alaska and the northwest. Rehearsals are held weekly year-round. *The Midnight Sons are a low-voice acapella chorus, singing in the barbershop style. About 16 members.*

Rabbit Creek Ramblers

Born and raised here in AK, we are all proud to call this place our home. Mainly raised on songs about trains...we credit scenes like this to keep our Anchorage music scene thriving. Thank you, Folk Fest 2026! *Ari Endestad - mandolin, violin; Zach Bassett - mandolin, guitar; Spencer DeBerard - bass; Eli Hermanson - guitar*

Mike & Matt

Father-son duo cutting loose a few original songs. Family harmony, tight picking, and possibly matching shirts. *Michael Faubion - guitar; Matt Faubion - guitar*

The Double Dippers

The Double Dippers are made up of members from former folk-fest acts Three Little Birds, Megan & Nigel, and The Newlybirds. They play folk-ish versions of songs you know and an original or two every so often. This is their first time playing together at Anchorage Folk Festival. *Megan Webb - guitar and vocals; Amanda Cash - vocals; Cy Two-Elk - guitar, mandolin, vocals; Emily Madsen - violin; Nigel Kibodeaux - bass*

most definitely not the legs of jake

an iteration of flying parts in formation *George - guitar; Peter - fiddle; Jason - fiddle; Jeff - bbbbass; Johnse - banjo*

The Hot Club of Nunaka

We will play three later compositions of the renowned Roma guitarist Django Reinhardt. They range from a lively major-keyed song to a darker complex harmonically structured tune to a captivating modal instrumental. *Adam Bartlett - guitar; Eric Rodgers - violin; Karl Pasch - clarinet; Nathan Levine - bass*

★ The Roland Roberts Band

Founded around a bonfire in Palmer, Alaska, in 2019, the Roland Roberts Band has gained a following with their mix of storytelling, electric improvisation, and high-energy live shows. Their albums *All About the Timing* and *So It Goes* earned high regards around the world and landed them on several grassroots national tours stretching from the snowy roads of Alaska to dusty highways of the Southwest. With haunting harmonies, in-your-face guitar licks, and sometimes lengthy experimental jams, The Roland Roberts Band captures the wild spirit of the frontier—no matter where they roam. *Roland Roberts - guitar; Matt Faubion - guitar, mandolin; Garrett Monroe - bass; Matthew "Wally" Wallace - drums/percussion*

Guest Artist the Roland Roberts Band



rolandrobertsband.com

Saturday, January 31 • AHS 106, UAA • Sign-up – 2:30 pm, Contest – 3 pm

THE 15TH ANNUAL BANJO CONTEST

PRESENTED BY ANCHORAGE FOLK FESTIVAL
IN MEMORY OF KEN TERRY, "MR. BANJO"

Open to All Ages • Four- and Five-String Banjo Styles

Prize Categories: Musical Styles and Banjo Joke



Date, Time, and Location

Saturday, January 31, 2026

UAA Allied Health Sciences Building Room 106 (not the Wendy Williamson Auditorium)

Sign-in at 2:30 pm; Contest starts at 3 pm.

Eligibility

Free entry to anyone, any age, any ability

Audience

Audience members and fans are very welcome; just please respect the need to be quiet when contestants are playing...and don't reveal any punch lines!

Categories

Contestants can enter one Style category:

- Bluegrass—three-fingered style of Earl Scruggs
- Old Time—clawhammer style
- Other—for example, but not limited to: Dixieland, Irish, fingerpicking, etc.

Joke—Banjo jokes are as traditional as banjo music and so they get recognition as well!

Prizes

Fun prizes will be awarded for each musical style and for the Banjo Joke category. All contestants receive a Certificate of Participation.

Judging

All contestants will be judged by our panel of four judges. We modeled our judging methods based on established performance criteria used in banjo contests all over the country.

Our distinguished judges are: Brian DeMarcus, Greg Booth, and Guest Artist Chris Miller of the Faux Paws.

Emcee: Brett Jokela

Thank you!

The Arctic Roadrunner—supporting the AFF Banjo Contest for all of its years in memory of Ken Terry. Additional 2026 supporters include: **Mammoth Music**, **Anchorage Concert Association**, and **Alaska Music and Sound**.



The banjo is a uniquely versatile and truly American traditional instrument, and we want to celebrate the many banjo players (and especially banjo students) out there who rarely get the credit and encouragement they deserve. We hope to attract all sorts of banjo players and new fans to celebrate the talents of Alaska's banjo virtuosos during the Anchorage Folk Festival's 15th Annual Banjo Contest.

Time to dust off that banjo in the corner!

Contest

- The contest will start at 3 pm in Allied Health Sciences Building Room 106.
- Order of appearance will be determined before the start of the contest, by drawing numbers.
- The emcee will introduce each contestant and the song titles.
- Each contestant will have up to five minutes to play and ideally should plan to perform two instrumental numbers within that five minutes total (eek, no singing, please!).
- **RULE:** Players can have one accompanist, to play basically a rhythm part, such as guitar or string bass (not another banjo, please!). The accompanist is there for musical support but not to play solo or duet parts or in any way overshadow the banjo contestant.

Criteria for Style Categories

Execution (40 points): Timing, clarity, tone quality, being in tune, dynamics and finesse, degree of difficulty. (No, we are not going to execute any banjo players, even if tempted!)

Arrangement (40 points): Musical appeal of songs played, sense of melody, originality, subtlety, and taste (or what passes for taste, in banjo music).

Spirit (10 points): The music should have life and feeling, not be listless or dragging.

Overall Impression (10 points): The general effect of the performance, including factors not otherwise mentioned above. Is the audience thrilled, or chilled?

Banjo Joke Guidelines

In the Banjo Joke category, similar criteria will be applied.

All jokes must be G-rated, like the movies, with a one-minute time limit, and one-joke maximum. (Jokes will be screened by a designated AFF staffer to ensure the G rating.)

Contestants can enter the joke category and a musical category.

Judges' Deliberation and Awards

All contestants should stay together until the final results are tabulated, because there might be **ties** in one or more categories that need to be resolved by a play-off. That means that those players would need to each play one more song for the judges to determine the winner.

Judges will confer to determine the winners. During that time, ALL contestants are requested to gather together on stage...we might have them all play a simple tune!

At the conclusion, winners will be announced, prizes awarded, and Certificates of Performance provided. Of course, all participants are also encouraged to become members of the Anchorage Folk Festival, and to consider volunteering too.

Special thanks to **Dick Sanchis** (Local Burger Man), who helped us start and support this contest, and to **Cara Sanchis** for continuing to support it each year. Dick Sanchis was a true Champion of Banjo Music.

Thanks also to businesses providing gift certificates, to the judges, our wonderful emcee, and other dedicated volunteers helping run this contest.

FREE WORKSHOPS: WEEK 2

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Shaded slots indicate Guest Artist workshops.

Workshop descriptions are on pages 8–12.

Ⓐ Main Stage workshops have different start times than PSB workshops.

Schedules subject to change.

FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION,

Check in the lobby or go to

www.anchoragfolkfestival.org/workshops



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PSB 210	PSB 109	PSB 110	Main Stage
10:00–11:15 am		Singing Folk Games, Dances, and Songs for Kids with Amanda Kerr	9:30–10:45 Ⓢ Irish Folk Dancing—A Blend of Multiple Types with Kevin Reinhardt
11:30 am–12:45 pm	Slide Guitar Workshop for Beginning and Intermediate Slide Guitar Players with Stephen Hendricks	Fun Fiddle Tunes with Shonti Elder	11:00–12:15 Ⓢ Swing Dance with Katie Cueva and Hot Club of Nunaka
1–2:15 pm	Beginning and Intermediate Fingerstyle Guitar with Stephen Hendricks	Bass Is the Place: Theory and Technique to Improve Your Groove and Deepen Your Pocket with Guest Artist Chris Sartori of the Faux Paws	Twin Fiddling (All Lead Instruments Welcome!) with Guest Artists Andrew and Noah VanNorstrand of the Faux Paws
2:30–3:45 pm	Introduction to Alternate (Open) Guitar Tunings for Playing and Writing Music with Stephen Hendricks	Sacred Harp Singing with Bob Hume	Arranging a Tune—the Ins and Outs with Guest Artist the Faux Paws
4:00–5:15 pm	Old-Time Banjo with Kevin Cassity		Mid-Tempo Bluegrass Jam with Heather Thomas

These workshops are free to all participants. Children under 8 are welcome to attend with adult supervision, unless otherwise noted. The **Workshop Index**, pp 8–12, shows all workshops by topic.

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MAIN STAGE PERFORMANCES: WEEK 2

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 1, 1 PM

EMCEES: NATALIE TUCKER AND LESLIE KLEINFELD

Guido's Paddleboat Jam

A happy group of people who love to get together and play and sing. We invite anyone who would like to join us to meet at Guido's Pizza on International Airport Road every Tuesday at 7pm.

Folk Medicine

Folk Medicine is a group of dads, friends, and neighbors that formed under the spotlight of the Anchorage Folk Festival in 2018. Love, grace, and harmony beam out as explicit themes, but, more implicitly, the importance of community, togetherness, and friendship shine brightly on these songs. Kindness, empathy, compassion, and steadfastness are illuminated moreover.

Garrett Burtner, Roger Fox, Peter Host, Adam Mackie, and David Souza

Sweet Pow!

Singing songs and having a good ol' time, just livin' that Alaskan life sublime. *Joe Schumacher - cajón, baritone ukulele, harmonica, vocals*

The Old Overholt

An irreverent mix original music and manic insight. *Alasun Shrekengost -vocals, percussion; Patrick Carrico - vocals, guitar*

TED

TED mixes the sounds of blues rhythms with that classic old soul feeling when he sings. He makes you want to listen to his words. *Ted Alder - vocals, guitar; Drew Anderson - beatbox (if available)*

Lauren Scantlebury

Lauren Scantlebury is a singer-songwriter born and raised in Bristol Bay and Anchorage. She performs original folk music. Through her songs she shares stories of love, loss, hope, and peace. *Lauren Scantlebury - guitar, vocals*

Turbo and the Butterfly

We are an Alaskan harmonizing musical duo who perform acoustic folk/rock fusion original music. *Scott Lewis - guitar, vocals; Michelle Sharp - vocals*

Constant Structure

Jazz combo playing standards and originals charts, as well as a bit of this and that too. *Briana Glasinov - vocals; Brigid Donahue - saxophone; JD Sterling - guitar; Heidi Herbert-Lovern - bass; Clint McBride - drums*

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Witty Youngman

Witty (she/they) is a two-spirit musician based in Anchorage, Alaska. They use their voice to speak on indigenous issues, participating in events and celebrating indigeneity around Alaska throughout the year. They use music to approach topics with a beautiful auditory experience matched with thoughtful and poetic lyrics.

Witty Youngman - guitar

Rousted by Bulls

Rousted By Bulls plays a mix of covers and originals in an Americana/folk style. Having started on open-mic stages around Anchorage, they have been playing together with the current lineup for a few years. *Jason - guitar, vocals; Dave - bass, vocals; Donnie - cajón, vocals; Jerry - lead guitar*

The Rough Draughts

Easy-listening classic rock music. *Josh Frommer, Mike Klopfer, Jay Sarate, Kyle Klopfer*

Alaska Jumping Flea Society

A happy group of people who love to get together and play and sing. We invite anyone who would like to join us to meet at Guido's Pizza on International Airport Road every Friday at 7pm. *All-ukulele group*

Meredith Roberts

Meredith blends the warmth of Americana and the storytelling heart of folk with an airy, reflective tone. Her music feels organic and human, built on gentle acoustic textures, heartfelt melodies, and lyrics that carry a sense of place and growth.

Meredith Roberts - vocals, guitar, dulcimer

sixteen.five

sixteen.five is a family band with roots in Kenny Lake, Alaska. Comprised of siblings and significant others, they bring the joy of kinship and connection to their music. Whether playing their uniquely jazzy covers or insightful original music, sixteen.five seeks to share the joy and grow their community, one tune at a time.

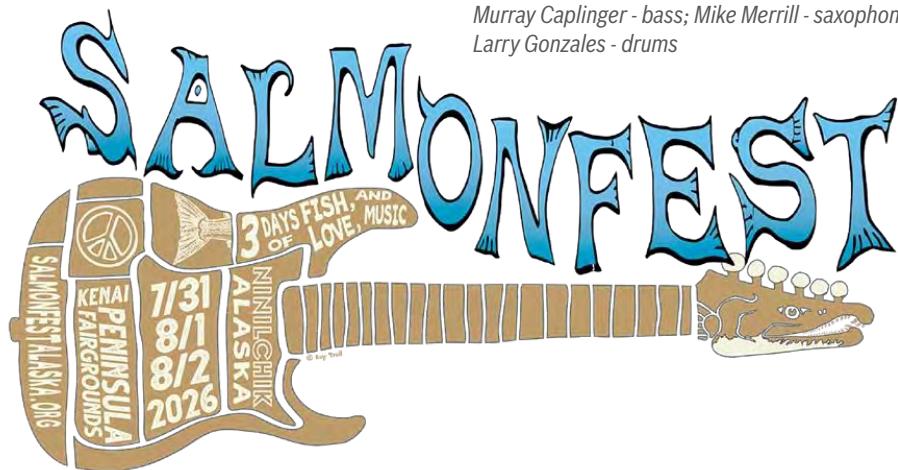
Rebekah Donohue - saxophone; Joe Donohue - guitar, vocals; Caleb Helkenn - bass; Scott Fritz - percussion; Amy Helkenn - vocals, keys

Bonfire Quartet

We are a barbershop quartet. We all belong to Alaska Sound Celebration Sweet Adelines chorus here in Anchorage. *Liesl Davenport - tenor; Stacy Miller, lead; Joclyn Reilly - baritone; Janet Henry - bass*

Vik & the Vapor Rubs

Vik & the Vapor Rubs brings high-energy Americana and Blues original and cover music. *Vikram Chaabal - lead singer, guitar; Murray Caplinger - bass; Mike Merrill - saxophone; Larry Gonzales - drums*



Hand Brake

Hand Brake is a new band with rock, blues, jazz, and funk influences. We each contribute in the writing of our original songs. We love to play and never get nervous (lol). *Alec Brown - bass, vocals; Stuart Rieke - guitar, vocals; Bonnie Parker - drums, vocals*

Peter Chan the Weatherman with Cellist Brett Lindsay

Enjoy an intimate set of original songs through the musical alchemy of an introspective meteorologist and accomplished symphony cellist.

Peter Chan - guitar, vocals; Brett Lindsay - cello

Ashtyn Barbaree

From the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas, Americana artist Ashtyn Barbaree shares songs woven with warmth, honesty, and a voice both ethereal and grounding. Named Americana Artist of the Year at the 2025 Arkansas Country Music Awards, she bridges folk, country, and indie sounds with heartfelt sincerity.

Ashtyn Barbaree - acoustic guitar, vocals

Big Chimney Barn Dance

Alaskan old-time string band. Their new album, *Morning Blues*, rips apart conventional boundaries and emerges with a fresh batch of songs that powerfully capture the joy of their live performances. Loves to play square dances! *Danny Consenstein - fiddle; Amanda Kerr - fiddle; Nate Williamson - guitar; Jay Marvin - banjo; Rachel Overby - bass; Pete Hamre - mandolin*

Casey Smith Project

Singer-songwriter from Fairbanks, AK. Original songs soulful indie rock. *Casey Smith*

Formerly Rude Mechanicals

Acoustic band playing original songs.

Jeff Silverman - guitar, vocals; Bob Clark - guitar, vocals; Karl Wilhelm - mandolin, vocals; Suzanne Little - bass, vocals

The Forest That Never Sleeps

As a multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, songwriter, and poet, The Forest That Never Sleeps transports her audience with infectious enthusiasm and raw emotion. From rhapsodic piano lines to gentle fingerpicked strings, her dynamic performances leave her audiences feeling connected to the human experience. *Kat Moore - piano, acoustic guitar, vocals*

★ The Faux Paws

Learn about the band on page 37! *Chris Miller; Andrew VanNorstrand; Noah VanNorstrand*

Guest Artist the Faux Paws

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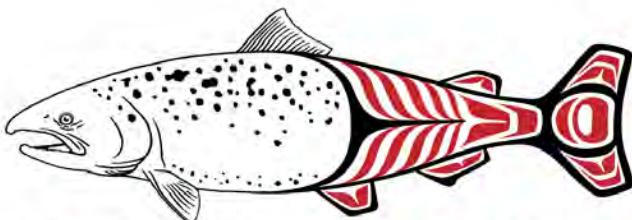
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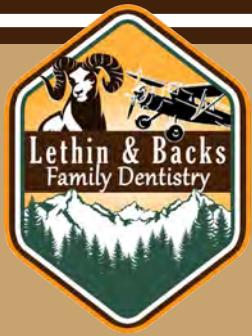
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It's only through our members' ongoing support that we can maintain our tradition of free public admission and encourage live performance by nonprofessional and professional artists alike.

Thank you for keeping the folk arts alive and thriving in Anchorage!

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