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**November 2014
 Newsletter**

41st Annual
 Alaska Folk Festival
 April 6-12, 2015

NEED CHRISTMAS PRESENTS? WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

We have reordered some of last year's amazing festival merchandise. Our merchandise last year sold like hot-cakes and we've heard from a lot of members that they wish they could still get their hands on the 40th festival items.

You can find our festival merchandise at the gift store at the JACC year-round and we've got an extra large stock on hand for this year's **Public Market on November 28th, 29th, & 30th.**

And for the first time ever we will have a pop-up store for Gallery Walk! **The Senate Building, 2nd floor (where the fly fishing shop used to be)** will be hosting the Alaska Folk Festival as part of this year's December First Friday event, also known as **Gallery Walk, on December 5th from 4:00 - 7:30pm.** Come chat with board members, pick up some beautiful merchandise, and sign up for, or renew your membership. Merchandise is one of the primary ways that the festival generates funds and we greatly appreciate your support, and we LOVE seeing those folk fest hoodies around town.



The 2015 AFF Guest Artist:

The Byron Berline Band



The Alaska Folk Festival is thrilled to have the Byron Berline Band as our 2015 guest artist. Playing their own brand of traditional bluegrass and Western swing music, Berline is a three time national fiddle champion and country/bluegrass legend backed by an all-star band including Billy Perry, Jim Fish, Richard Sharp, Greg Burgess, and Steve Short.

Berline's start in country music began at age five and his early career included playing fiddle with legends such as Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys, the Dillards and Country Gazette. After moving to Los Angeles in 1969, he soon became one of the most popular fiddlers in the music business. His long list of performing and recording credits includes The Rolling Stones, The Eagles, The Band, The Byrds, Gram Parsons, Alabama, Mary Chapin Carpenter, The Flying Burrito Brothers, Doc Watson, Earl Scruggs, Emmylou Harris, Tammy Wynette, Mason Williams, Bob Dylan, Willie Nelson and Vince Gill. He also has extensive television and movie sound track credits and has appeared in Star Trek, Blaze, Back to the Future III and Basic Instinct.

Berline has recorded seven solo albums including his highly acclaimed *Fiddle & a Song* with guest performances from Vince Gill, Mason Williams, Earl Scruggs and Bill Monroe. In 1996 the album was nominated for two Grammy awards, 'Best Album of the Year' and 'Best Song of the

Year.' As one of the world's premier fiddle players, Berline is fluent in many of the different aspects of American music, including western swing, blues, cajun, bluegrass and old timey. However, he retains his own distinct sound and has influenced many other musicians.

In 1995 Byron returned to his home state of Oklahoma where he opened the Double Stop Fiddle Shop in historic downtown Guthrie for the purpose of "visiting, trading and jamming" with folks who enjoy traditional music. As a natural progression a band was formed to entertain regularly in the music hall above the fiddle shop. The Byron Berline Band found themselves in great demand around the state, as well as surrounding states, and have also had the opportunity to share their music throughout Europe and China.

In 1996 Byron started the Oklahoma International Bluegrass Festival, a festival dedicated to bluegrass music, international acts playing American roots music and keeping the country music tradition alive by educating and encouraging young musicians to enjoy a life of music. Board member Paul Disdier and his wife attended the festival this year for the second time and had the chance to meet with Byron and some of the band members. Paul reports the band is excited about coming to Alaska to perform and be a part of our festival.

Along with Byron who plays the fiddle and mandolin, his band consists of Billy Perry, regarded as Oklahoma's master of the banjo. Perry has been instrumental in the music scene of the State since the age of thirteen. He has played

Jody Miller, Mel Tillis, Moe Bandy, Wanda Jackson, Becky Hobbs plus Asleep at the Wheel.

Richard Sharp is at home on the left-handed upright and electric bass. Richard has stayed busy with more recording sessions than can be listed. He has toured with Oklahoma's own Harlow Wilcox, recording on his Grammy nominated album Groovy Grubworm. He has shared the stage with Hank Thompson, The Texas Playboys, Chris Hillman, Vince Gill, Alan Munde, John Anderson, Boxcar Willie, Wanda Jackson and Colin Raye.



Byron Berline signing his AFF contract with board member Paul Disdier.

with Bluegrass ReVue, Vince Gill, Mountain Smoke, Crossfire, and The Renegades. In addition to his banjo, Billy plays dobro and sings lead vocals.

Jim Fish on guitar began his career as a musician playing washboard in a jug band in the early 1960's. Then Fish saw the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan Show and began a decades-long interest in guitar. Jim toured the states with a southern rock band called the Henry Paul Band and released two albums on Atlantic Records in the late 1970's. The band's first gig was opening for the Rolling Stones in Florida. Jim's interest in Clarence White's singular guitar playing guided him towards bluegrass music. Fish uses a custom-made "vintaged" Triggs acoustic guitar and a Telecaster.

Greg Burgess has been playing guitar and fiddle for over 30 years. Associations with fiddlers like Clark Forshee, Amos Hedrick, Ace Sewell, Russell O'Neal, Herman Johnson, Dick Barrett, Orville Burns and, of course, Byron Berline, helped form Greg's fiddling style. Greg has won the Oklahoma state Fiddle Championship numerous times. He has recorded and/or shared the stage with a number of musical greats including Hank Thompson, Leon Rausch,

Steve Short began playing drums in his parents' family band at a very early age. He went on to record and play with every big name imaginable, including three years with Reba McEntyre. Steve is an accomplished recording and sound engineer and produces the Berline Band's album projects. He is undoubtedly the most popular recording drummer in the Guthrie area.

Check them out at: www.byronberlineband.com

Your Board

- Erin Hanson, President (exp 2015)
- Sergei Morosan, Vice President (exp 2015)
- Bob Schroeder, Treasurer (exp 2016)
- Rachel Brown (exp 2016)
- Pat Henry (exp 2017)
- Paul Disdier (exp 2017)
- Vacant (exp 2016)

We meet at 6pm on the second Tuesday of the month in one of the conference rooms at the KTOO building. Please join us! Next meeting will be on December 9th.

Alaska Folk Festival Membership Form

41st Annual Alaska Folk Festival, April 6-12, 2015

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Amount: \$ _____ Visa/Mastercard ONLY

Exp. Date _____ 3 digit security code: _____

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Signature: _____

Amount \$ _____

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|--------------------------|---|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Member | (\$15—\$29) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sustaining Member | (\$30—\$49) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Friend | (\$50—\$99) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Patron | (\$100—\$249) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Benefactor | (\$250 and above) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Please do not list my name in the program | |

All members receive the Festival newsletters. Benefactors, Patrons, Friends, and Sustaining members will be listed in the Festival, Juneau, Alaska program (deadline: March 15, 2015). Please mail to: Alaska Folk Festival, PO Box 99802. Thank You!!

Contra Dance Schedule November/December 2014

<u>Date</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Caller</u>
11/28	Rumblefish	Tom Paul
12/13	Full Circle	Susie Kendig
12/31	Impromptu	TBD

All dances 7:30 - 11:00pm

St. Ann's Parish Hall

5th & Gold

Juneaucontras.org

AFF Contact & Info Sources

Phone: 907-463-3316

Email: Info@AlaskaFolkFestival.org

Facebook: [facebook.com/AKFolkFest](https://www.facebook.com/AKFolkFest)

Twitter: @AK_FolkFest

Web Site: AKFolkFest.org

Gold Street Music

Remember to mark your calendar for the first Saturday of each month for Gold Street Music. It offers a delightful and unique opportunity to hear local musicians in a fine acoustic setting. Concerts are held at the Resurrection Lutheran Church at 740 W. 10th St in downtown Juneau at 7:30pm. \$5 at the door. Check the AFF website for updates or for more information you may call Elva 209-6517 or Frederick 523-6999.

Each evening features performances from five to six local acoustic groups.

Next Date: 12/6