

FESTIVAL

48

Dec 2022

# Quarterly Newsletter



## 48th Alaska Folk Festival: April 10-16, 2023

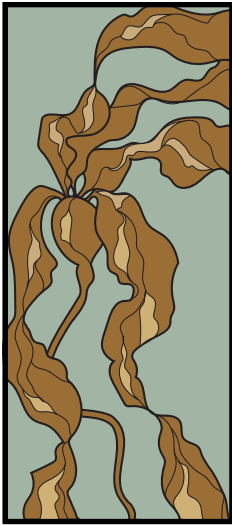
**VENUE UPDATE:** The 2023 Festival will take place at the Juneau Arts & Culture Center (JACC) and the Juneau-Douglas High School (JDHS) Yadaa.at Kalé Auditorium.

The closure of Centennial Hall for renovations means that our normal home will not be available for the 2023 Festival. While this makes for another challenging year, the AFF board has again been hard at work to find new solutions to keep the Festival going strong! The 2023 Festival will take place in the JACC and the JDHS Yadaa.at Kalé Auditorium – both places where the Festival has been in the past. And, this year we're thrilled to bring back Dances again at the JACC, Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights!

- **Monday - Thursday • JACC**
- **Friday, Saturday, Sunday, • JDHS Yadaa.at Kalé Auditorium**

While we'll certainly be ready to return to our newly renovated home in 2024, this year we're very glad to find venues that are still centrally located in the downtown area. The size of our event means that the JACC won't hold us on the weekend, but thankfully there's plenty of space in the JDHS Auditorium – which will also provide performers a chance to play on a much larger stage with fantastic acoustics! We can't wait to hear your voices and instruments shine in a new setting! We'll have free shuttles running from around Centennial Hall to JDHS all through the evenings, and parking will be available at Centennial Hall. Stay tuned for specific details as we get closer to April!

**MORE INFO & RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP:** [WWW.AKFOLKFEST.ORG](http://WWW.AKFOLKFEST.ORG)



# 2023 Poster Artist: Rebecca Poulson

## Artist Statement

I grew up in Sitka and crewed on a variety of trollers and longliners, and worked repairing them. Those boats have such a beauty to them, sometimes I took pictures of a plank I was putting in, just because the curve would take my breath away. I learned wood engraving from Dale DeArmond and all those first pictures I made had boats in them. I've done a lot of interviews and research and writing on Sitka's history, and that started with interviewing boatbuilders: hundreds of boats were built in Sitka and in all the towns and villages all over Southeast.

This picture is not wood engraving, which is where you cut into an end-grain block of wood, ink it and put it through a press, but scraper board, which is a clay-coated board, covered with a thin layer of ink you scrape off with a knife. It's a lot easier and has a similar look, so it's what wood engravers often use for illustration.

The Sitka Maritime Heritage Society's annual meeting in February is on fish buying, inspired by the noble Power Scows, vessels like the Otter and Sea Lion, many dating from WWII, and still working all over coastal Alaska. My boy worked on the Sea Lion a couple summers ago, and I used some of his photos, along with other photos and actual boats in the harbor as models for these imaginary vessels.

I'm taking Tlingit at UAS, and the goal of that program is for the language to be a part of life in SE Alaska: the seiner is Cheech (Porpoise), the power scow is Taan (Sea Lion), and my little troller is the Tsa (Seal).

And all the little people playing and singing, that is to try to express the fun and community that happens through music.

Rebecca Poulson  
2023 Poster Artist  
Sitka, AK





# A Quarterly Folk Music Round Up

Greetings from Juneau! I am Jack Fontanella, long time festival goer (missed one since '78), previous board member (In the late '90's/early 2000's), and currently recently elected new board member. And for the past 20 something years (somewhere between 23 and 25), a volunteer D.J. on KRNN here in Juneau for our weekly folk music show Mudlark Sampler. I should also say I have played in a few bands over the years and at one time also called dances. As a result of all the previously-stated experiences, I think, the board has asked me to write a recurring column for the newsletter. It will be my intention to turn ya'all onto some great music and places, both virtual and in person, to stay in touch with what's happening in the world of folk music.

First some sad news: The great and influential Vermont fiddler [Pete Sutherland](#) has been diagnosed with cancer after being cancer free for more than 10 years. He is currently in hospice but is said to be in good spirits and busy. If you would like to send him some love or a donation click the following link: <https://www.vtfolklife.org/for-the-love-of-pete> (Update: [Pete passed on Dec. 2nd](#))

Now for 2 recommended listenings: #1 [Peter Rowan](#) is up for a Grammy for his album [Calling You from My Mountain](#), featuring people like [Billy Strings](#), [Molly Tuttle](#) and [Lindsay Lou](#) (of [...and the Flat Bellys](#)). It's really good! Check it out wherever you listen to music.

#2 The Anchorage Folk Festival is featuring [The Bucking Mules](#) for their second weekend in January (The weekend after the [Portland Old Time Music Gathering](#).) The Mules fiddler Joe Decosimo just released [While You Were Slumbering](#). This is fiddle, banjo and pump organ. I'm a big fan of everything Joe does. Give this one a listen.

That's it for now. Lots more next time. Until then...

# About the Alaska Folk Festival

**One of Alaska's largest longest-running and FREE music festivals!** Founded in 1975 by a group of Juneau folk musicians playing one cold winter evening in the State Museum, the Alaska Folk Festival has been bringing music to Southeast Alaska communities for over forty years. Incorporated in the early 80s, the Folk Festival is organized by a working volunteer Board, and the many helping hands of the greater Juneau community.



## EVENTS & ATTENDANCE

Each year, the Festival is held in early April, spanning one week: Monday to Sunday. Admission to all events is always free. All are welcome to attend. Each concert has about 15 acts and lasts about 4 hours. People travel to Juneau from across the region, state, country, and world to attend!



## GUEST ARTIST & PERFORMERS

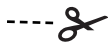
The Festival encourages and supports both non-professional musicians and professional musicians. There are no auditions - anyone can submit an application to perform on the main stage. Performers are not paid, with one exception - the Guest Artist. One Guest Artist is selected by the Folk Festival Board each year. Selection for a 15-minute mainstage performance is mostly by availability and chance. Performer applications open in January the year of the Festival. Website registrations are encouraged, paper are available as well.



## VOLUNTEERING

The Festival is COMPLETELY supported by donations and volunteers like you! Become a member today! Volunteer applications open in January. Volunteer positions range widely in task, duration, and recur throughout the week. Example volunteer positions, in no particular order, include: Door greeter, Merchandise sales, Membership table, Stage crew, Stage manager, Emcee, Workshop assistance, Annual meeting assistance, and more!

[www.akfolkfest.org](http://www.akfolkfest.org)



## Alaska Folk Festival Membership Form

*All members receive AFF newsletters and are invited to the AFF Annual Meeting in April. Benefactors, Patrons, and Friends will be listed in the future festival program. Donations are tax deductible according to law (EIN #92-0098258).*

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Please select your membership level and write your desired donation amount.

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