

# Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival

*Awaken Your Inner Artist*

VOL. 2, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2021

## Director's Note

Remember how closing the book on 2020 was supposed to signal the end of all of the turmoils of last year? Well, it seems that the challenges of this past year did not just go away. 2021 is going to be filled with just as many challenges as we try to regain our footing after a year of chaos and division.



Here in the Festival Offices, we are taking steps towards those ends by continuing to make plans for Winter Edition and the 2021 Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival. Winter Edition will be February 22-28 and registration is live online at [www.fsaf.org](http://www.fsaf.org). The summer dates will be July 18-August 1.

Will health and safety issues be resolved in order to have all of our guest artists travel up here and meet face to face with our registrants? No one knows. Will there be venues available to meet in for workshops or performances? No one knows. Will we have sponsors and advertisers who have the financial means to help us put on the festival? No one knows.

What we do know is that somehow, in some way, FSAF will create opportunities for registrants to have personal interactions with world-class instructors as they share the love of their craft. There will be workshops to learn new things and explore new skills and develop ourselves in ways that have both short term and long term benefits.

We will be launching a web interview series with our guest artists this month on January 15th where you can learn more about who they are and how they teach and watch me get my first lesson from them. We've finished the first couple of interviews and they were full of laughter and amazement and insight. I can't wait to share them with you.

Keep up to date with FSAF on our website and through our social media updates and I hope to see you as we march into better days ahead.

James

## What's Next? **Winter Edition**

Winter edition registration is under way and we have so many new offerings this year! Most are being offered as online options with a few options for in person classes as well. We will be making a decision on Gospel Choir later this month. This is a list of our classes. Register today at [www.fsaf.org](http://www.fsaf.org).

Calico Tuning on Old Time Fiddle \* FLEX-Ability \* How to Improvise Jazz

Intro to Ukulele \* Intermediate Ukulele \* Songwriting \* Photo Topics with Todd

Learn an Irish Traditional Tune \* Super Easy Harmonizing

Violin/Fiddle Toolbox \* Watercolor for people with no Time or Talent

Zentangle \* Zentangle: Winter Rocks! \* Youth Aerial Silks

## Artist Spotlight~ **Keith Karns**

Keith Karns is a trumpet player, arranger, and bandleader based in Dallas Texas. During his time at the University of North Texas, Keith was a trumpet soloist and arranger for the Grammy nominated One O'Clock Lab Band. Since then, Keith has had the opportunity to work with some of the nation's leading voices in jazz including Rich Perry, Greta Matassa, Victor Barranco (U.S. Army Blues), Lauren Sevian (Mingus Big Band), and Stefon Harris. Keith has been the recipient of awards from ASCAP, Downbeat Magazine, and the Jazz Education Network (JEN).



The Keith Karns Big Band can be heard regularly in Dallas and has toured nationally. In 2018 Keith's band was invited to perform at the JEN conference with Rich Perry. Keith's band plays his original compositions and arrangements and has released two CDs of Keith's original music. The band's second recording is a collaboration with Rich Perry, and was released on Summit Records in 2017.

Keith is the director of Jazz Studies at Western Oregon in Salem, OR. Keith holds degrees from the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire, Indiana University, and the University of North Texas. His teachers include David Baker, Bill Adam, Robert Baca, Rich DeRosa, and Jay Saunders. Keith is a Torpedo Bags performing artists and uses Torpedo Bags to transport and protect all of his trumpets.

## Special Thanks to **Rhonda Gilbertson**

I want to take a moment to recognize a very special person. Rhonda Gilbertson has served as bookkeeper, box office guru and altogether inspiring force of nature for FSAF for the past 10 years. She is moving on from the organization, but not from Fairbanks, in the next couple of months and on behalf of myself, the staff and the Board of Directors, I want to wish her the best of luck in this new season of her life. Personally, I am deeply grateful for her cheerful attitude and patience with me as I learned the ropes. Thank you Rhonda for a remarkable decade of service. ~James

### **Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival Board of Directors**

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