

# Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival

*Awaken Your Inner Artist*

January 2022

## A Note From the Director:

What a Winter Break we just had. First there was snow, then more snow, then rain, then more snow! I spent most of the Christmas/New Years Holiday season shoveling my driveway, then my road, then my driveway again and then my roof. I was thrilled to get power back so that I could come into the Festival Offices and do some work that did not involve a shovel!

Looking at the snowy roads and icy parking lots and -35 degree temperatures, summer feels a long way off. You know what is not too far away and what sounds like a welcome break from these long, dark, cold days? **FSAF's Winter Edition!**

The end of February and beginning of March will have some great workshops to pull you out of your winter hibernation and get you creating with others again. CJ Menge (see below) will be teaching some Steel Pans courses. Love to make music by hitting things with mallets, but prefer wood to metal? Jim Levine and Jenny Stroyeck will be returning to put on a couple of Marimba classes. Feel more contemplative and still? Sandra Westcott will be leading two Zentangles drawing workshops. Just need to sing and laugh? Bobby Lewis and Eustace Johnson will be returning for their 20<sup>th</sup> year to lead our Gospel Choir. Wondering about our Covid policies? They are simply this: Masking is required at all workshops and performances.

Information for all of these items can be found at [www.fsaf.org](http://www.fsaf.org) and registrations are now open. Feel free to write or call our office if you have any questions. I invite you to join us for our upcoming Winter Edition as we move into an exciting, and arts-filled, 2022.

James

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## Guest Artist Spotlight- CJ Menge

CJ Menge is a steel pan educator, composer and performer. He is the founder and Executive Director of Inside Out Steelband, a nonprofit organization based in Austin, Texas. Inside Out's programming includes a community steelband program, an annual concert series, a youth steelband summer camp, and a variety of both short and long-term residencies for students of all ages (youth to adult) and abilities. CJ has worked diligently since 1996 to help to start and develop many school and community steel bands in Austin and beyond, and continues to serve



as an artist-in-residence or director with several of these programs. He is a nationally recognized clinician and has worked with K-12 and university programs throughout the US.

CJ has composed and arranged over 150 works for steelband, solo steel pan, and percussion, many of which are published by Boxfish Music Publishing, Inc. His works have been performed at major conferences and festivals, and by school and community programs throughout the United States and Europe. Recent commissions include “Granite and Sky” for percussion ensemble (premiere at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic 2019, Chicago, IL), and “On the Horizon” for steelband (premiere at the Texas Music Educators Convention 2020, San Antonio, TX).

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