

Looking for a fall event that has everything?

The Fall Folk Festival & Live KPBX Broadcast Have Got You Covered

Saturday, November 12, 2011 - FREE

KPBX LIVE BROADCAST
from the Fall Folk Festival

11am to 1pm - Doors open at 10:30am

Lair Auditorium, Spokane Community College
1810 North Greene Street, Spokane



Broadcast Co-Host Carlos Alden speaks with event organizer Sylvia Gobel about the Festival's unique cultural appeal.

Spokane is known for having an active and recognized music scene - hip hop, metal, jazz, rock, country and more - but it seems the local media lump all folk music together so it is not heard about as often. Also, like the way certain smells can be reminiscent of

experiences you'd rather forget, the mere mention of folk music can still carry the icky cachet of peace signs, flowered smocks, and hippie love songs.

Not so at the 15th Annual Fall Folk Festival, this year held on Saturday, November 12 and Sunday, November 13 in Spokane Community College's Student Lair Auditorium. Here, folk music, folk crafts, folk art, folk dance, and all things of folk culture reign supreme and explode in all its wonderful diversity. This free event features eight performance stages hosting musicians and dancers and storytellers from the region and beyond. There are also craft booths to buy holiday gifts, art workshops for kids of all ages (this is a GREAT event for families and kids), food and snacks (including the ever-famous donation table of home baked goods), and an amazing opportunity to people-watch. The main hallway turns into Jam Central with as many as eight impromptu groups ad-hoc thrown together, finding each other's musical pulse.

This year the Festival is expecting about 100 groups totalling somewhere around 400 performers, representing bluegrass, old-time, singer-songwriters, Irish, Scottish, Klezmer, African drumming, marimba, traditional Chinese, and other genres. There are seven dance workshops including East Indian, English country dance, Japanese folk dance, New England contra dance, square dance, and more, including the traditional Saturday night contra dance with *Out Of The Wood* and callers Nora Scott and Ray Polhemus.

Festival Director Sylvia Gobel says the Festival is a testament to the tireless volunteerism in the folk community as well as the diversity of music, dance, and storytelling in the Spokane area. "My favorite job organizing the Festival is putting together the schedule—seeing the incredible diversity of choice that we have and making sure that it's a well balanced schedule. During the Festival, my favorite job is walking around and basking in the wonderful music—and the happy smiling people," she says with a smile. "I make a point of checking out our first-time performers and try to catch a song or two of my favorite groups. The best feedback I get every year is "I never knew there were so many incredibly talented musicians and dancers in Spokane.""

Even after being involved with the Folklore Society and the Festival for many years, Gobel says: "I love being involved because I love traditional and ethnic music and dance and I know that there are many hidden gems in this area that most of the public doesn't know about. I want everyone to come to the Festival and get to know these wonderful performers. I know there are many more out there that we haven't discovered yet!"



In Prairie Home Companion-style, broadcast Co-Hosts Verne Windham and Carlos Alden engage in witty dialogue and radio skits between musical acts during a special Halloween Fall Folk Festival live broadcast in 2009.

Broadcast Donors:



KPBX's live broadcast kicks off a full weekend of cultural arts, music, and dance

Helping to kick off the Festival on Saturday, November 12 from 11am to 1pm, KPBX 91.1 will broadcast live music from eight to 10 artists and groups, interspersed with commentary, skits, and musical interludes from co-hosts Carlos Alden and Verne Windham, and musical sidekick Brad Keeler.

"I think the most fun at the Festival is the radio broadcast," Alden says. "You get to listen to us make stupidly witty comments and terrible jokes, and you get a good representative sample of what the Festival has to offer. The idea is to listen to (or watch) the show and get intrigued by what's going on and then come down to check it out." He adds, "You might hear an artist you really like and come see them later in the day."

More experienced performers play in bigger rooms to larger crowds, while first-timers and less seasoned performers are showcased in smaller, more intimate settings. The KPBX radio show highlights the best of both to demonstrate the rich diversity that Gobel speaks of.

Some of the performers who will participate in this year's live KPBX broadcast are The Portatos, a youth accordion band; The Kosher Red Hots, a Klezmer band; Floating Crowbar, doing traditional Irish music; Dirk Lind, a singer-songwriter; Lyle Morse whomping out some traditional blues; and more.

To be a part of the studio audience and watch the KPBX live broadcast performance, make your way to the Student Lair Auditorium on the campus of Spokane Community College at Mission and Greene streets in Spokane. There's free parking the whole weekend. Auditorium doors open at 10:30am. The broadcast begins at 11am and runs until 1pm.

If you would like to join the several hundred volunteers who work in 2-3 hour shifts to be part of this great regional event, you can sign up on the Fall Folk Festival website, www.spokanefolkfestival.org, or call the Spokane Folklore Society at (509) 747-2640.

If you can't attend the live broadcast, listen to KPBX 91.1 from 11am to 1pm, or stream the Festival online at: www.kpbx.org.