

ALASKA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS



2023-2024

Maestro Bruce Wood
AYO Music Director

FALL CELEBRATION

Featuring the Anchorage Youth Symphony with performances by AYO's Symphony School Ensembles

Monday  November 6, 2023  6:30 pm
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Pierre Derycz ~ Executive Director
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ALASKA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS

COACHES

ANCHORAGE YOUTH SYMPHONY

Nina Bingham*, 1st violin
Katie Wasko-Klink, 2nd violin
Nancy Darigo, viola
Brett Lindsay*, cello
Avalon Lee, double bass
Laura Koenig, flute
Emily Weaver, oboe

Sandra Cox, clarinet
Kyle Noonan, bassoon
Evan Hagen*, horn
Sean Evanick, trumpet
Bill Klemm, low brass
Kade Bissell, percussion
Joanna Mayer, harp

SYMPHONY SCHOOL

Marie Nielson*, violin/viola
Brooke Wood, cello/bass
Brad Hamilton, winds/brass
Kade Bissell, percussion
Joanna Mayer, harp

AFTER SCHOOL MUSIC

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Brett Lindsay, Camp Fire AK
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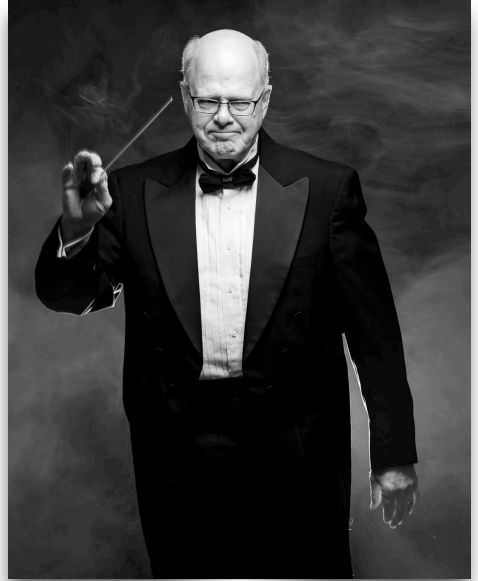
BIOGRAPHY

MAESTRO BRUCE WOOD, PH.D.

Dr. Bruce Wood was appointed Music Director of Alaska Youth Orchestras in July of 2021. Dr. Wood was the founding Music Director of the Youth Orchestras of Lubbock, Texas while also serving on the faculty of Texas Tech University. From 2014 to 2021 Dr. Wood was the Director of Fine Arts for the Anchorage School District.

Dr. Wood received a bachelor's degree in music education from Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa and his master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Wood has taught in public school settings for eleven years and at the university level for over twenty-five years. He has been published by the American String Teacher Journal, Strings Magazine, and GIA publications.

A cellist and singer, Dr. Wood has been a member of the Alaska Chamber Singers. He has also conducted a number of the performances of the Anchorage Community Chorus Messiah. Dr. Wood's wife, Brooke, works for the Anchorage Museum.



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A NOTE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

Welcome to the first concert of Alaska Youth Orchestras' 2023-24 season! It is my privilege to serve as the Board Chair of this wonderful organization. AYO holds a special place in my heart as a second generation alum, and I am thrilled to serve the group in this capacity. I am thankful to our previous Chair Josie Wilson for her support during both the Executive Director and Board Chair transitions. The upcoming season is going to be fantastic, and I am excited for you to join us!



It is also a joy to welcome our new Executive Director, Pierre Derycz, to the AYO! As both a performing musician and arts administrator, Pierre brings a fresh perspective to our organization, and we look forward to working with him. He and our former Executive Director Denise Brown-Chythlook share a similar relentlessly positive approach to advocating for youth arts programs, and we are excited to see where AYO goes with Pierre's leadership.

I would also like to thank the most important members of our organization, the musicians and their families! We appreciate all the time and effort that every single one of you puts into making music with this group. Along with Music Director Dr. Bruce Wood, we can't wait to hear what you bring to the performance stage this year.

Enjoy tonight's concert, and thank you so much for supporting the Alaska Youth Orchestras!

Sincerely,
Nate Berry
Board President, AYO alum ('05-'09)

ALASKA YOUTH ORCHESTRAS PROGRAMS

ANCHORAGE YOUTH SYMPHONY



Providing high school and college age musicians with a low-cost, professional performance experience.

Funded in part by a generous grant from the Atwood Foundation.

SYMPHONY SCHOOL



Providing low-cost, low barrier teaching ensembles and classes for youth musicians in grades 4-12.

Funded in part by the Richard L and Diane M Block Foundation.

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Funded in part by The Carr Foundation, the Alaska State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Rasmuson Foundation.

A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The first concert of the season is always an exciting occasion. Young musicians, returning and new, come together to collaborate, rekindle friendships, form new bonds, and most importantly, build their collective artistry in pursuit of the magic and rewards of orchestral performance.

Since arriving in Alaska last Fall, I have been deeply impressed by AYO—the commitment of its musicians, their respect for the music, the maestro, and each other. These are the ingredients that make an ensemble, and community, truly special. Tonight, for my first time as Executive Director, I am honored to witness the results of our young musicians' dedication (and on the Atwood stage no less!)

Under Maestro Wood's leadership, the brilliance of the Anchorage Youth Symphony is on full display, as are the growing skills of our Symphony School musicians, led in concert by Assistant Conductor Evan Hagen. This Fall, we are especially delighted to welcome our After School Music participants, who will enjoy tremendous musical inspiration throughout the year thanks to our continued partnership with Camp Fire Alaska.

I am so grateful to be a part of the AYO family and the tremendous work of our team. We are humbled by the partnership of so many in our community, from the AYO Board, to our many parents, volunteers, donors, sponsors, and funders who make this work possible. Thank you for your care of our young musicians, and the vibrant arts community we all call home.



Pierre Derycz
Executive Director





The Anchorage
Waldorf School

Awakening Wonder

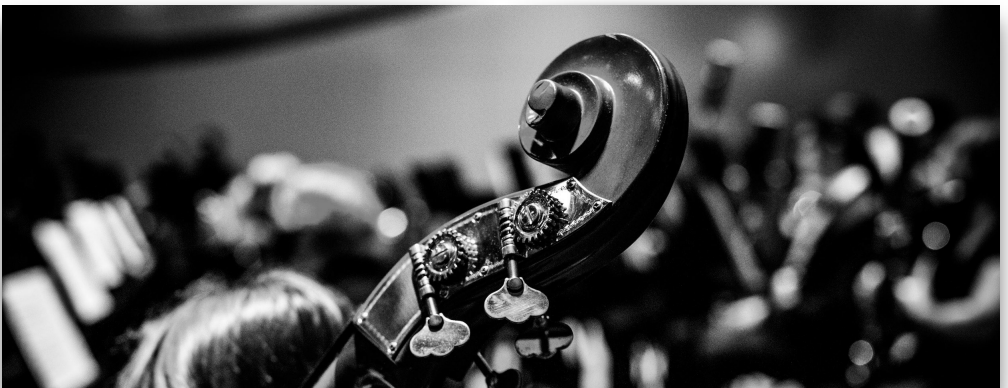
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A NOTE FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

Thank you for coming and supporting these young musicians tonight. Every concert is special, but especially this one because we have learned the first movement of perhaps the most famous, recognized work in classical music, Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. With young players, my greatest joy is introducing great music to students who may have heard a piece but are playing it for the first time. What a pleasure!



As you can see before you, our organization has grown from one orchestra of fifty in the spring of 2021 to three orchestras of some one hundred and fifty players today. My deep thanks to our staff of Pierre Derycz, Zach Akins, and Evan Hagen who work hard to bring quality music education to young people. Also, a big thanks to all our coaches and parent volunteers. It takes many committed people to create musical experiences these students will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

Bruce Wood



SYMPHONY SCHOOL ENSEMBLES

PRELUDE

VIOLIN 1

Ruth Leman
Concertmaster

Lillian Beals
Micah Holsopple
Julie Clark
Isabella Schirard
Amy Stockly
Jessica Westley
Cody Eakes

VIOLIN 2

Fiona Salao
Principal

David Parrish
Hanna Lundebye
Marcelo Whited
Isabella Tran
Nyle Brown
Kylie Walton

VIOLIN 3

Ella Guzik
Principal
Nolan Phelps
Lily Kanyer
Althea Parrish

CELLO

Caden Grunst
Principal
Cole Cadogan
Primrose Ward
Ava Lundebye

MUSICIAN

VOLUNTEERS:

Isaac Dodge*
Robert Calivo**

OVERTURE

VIOLIN 1

Audrey Yun
Concertmaster

Leo Shephard
Sebastian Terry
Hannah Kim
Caffrey Heyman
Alejandra Choi
Jacob Lavarias
Willa Moberly

VIOLIN 2

Elizabeth Harris
Principal

Olivia Lessens
Ethan Swartz
Sofia Amalia Pennino
Makenzie Patzke
Samuel Temiz
Reishean Hidalgo
Amelia Ellison

VIOLA

Cadence Church
Principal
Emma Dougherty

CELLO

Adrian Cryan
Principal
Anna Kanyer
Lily Bohman
Katrina Nelson
Nizoni Lommel
Eva Good
Elvine Lee
Lilly Jeppesen
Caedmon Johnson

DOUBLE BASS

Rienzi Witmer
Principal
Nina Ricotte

FLUTE

Carinna Clark
Principal

OBOE

Adria Myers
Principal

CLARINET

Isabel Camm
Principal
Zachary Day
Kayleigh Heyman
Rena Tokita

BASSOON

Rania White
Principal

TRUMPET

Malachi Temiz
Principal
Samuel Erickson

TROMBONE

David Schreyer
Principal

TUBA/BARITONE

Deenise Lucero
Principal
Logan Williams

PERCUSSION

Eli King
Principal
John Bazin

PIANO

John Bazin
Principal

Harp

Rena Tokita
Principal
Chloe Hayner

ANCHORAGE YOUTH SYMPHONY

VIOLIN 1

Rania White
Co-concertmaster
Kestrel Wigglesworth
Co-concertmaster
Benjamin Strauss
Ingrid Berryhill
Zoe Burtch
Ethan Saephan
Svea Harvey
Alex Walukiewicz
Amber Snelling
Caleb Miller
Angel Yang
Ellie Lang
Madison Chaitoff
Reine Soule
Elias Soule
Isaac Dodge*

VIOLIN 2

Sarah Kim
Principal
Peter Hobbie
Dylan Beals
Rebekah Renner
Bailey Hamilton
Harris Anderson
Bruno Bookman
Aurora Panilo
Nick Schnell
Nicholas Goetz
Ethan Ivey
Coal Flint
Catalina Whited
Cash Court*
Bryce Herda
Robert Calivo**

VIOLA

Amira Ball
Principal
Kyler Stafford
Jonathan Moore
Tália Tovar
Fisher Lajoie
Nina Geist

Gabriel Novero
Eden Rhoades
Breanna Hester*
Nashanti Fearrington*
Makayla Rose*
Willow Wielechowski

CELLO

Bentley Altman
Principal
Grant Chythlook
Ezzy Allwright
Isaac Ward
Eros Sotelo
Lavinia Li
Ira Libby
Donovan Mahoney
Ruben Rhodes
Minghan Dai
Alex Osgood
Kendrew Liu
Zoey Dougherty
Miles Brooks
Faith Felton*

DOUBLE BASS

Ashlyn Paynter
Principal
Violet Bowie
Mary Grace Cope
Erika Dobler
Izzy Williams*

FLUTE

Lena So
Principal
Amelia Swartz
Roxann Berry**

OBOE

Kayla Peppinger
Principal
Charlotte Fontana
Elijah Lupie*

CLARINET

Kolter Kalt
Principal
Max Erickson
Gavin Baker
Ruby Beardsley
Abigail Spear*

BASSOON

Amaya Hammatt
Principal
Kaitlyn Paculba

HORN

Kai Burns
Principal
Evan Hagen**
Erik Oder**
Lupe Marroquin**

TRUMPET

Noah Kurth
Principal
Isaac Diltz*
Sean Evanick**

TROMBONE

Olivia Martin
Principal
Erik Rueb*
Terence McKnight*

TUBA

Drew Cochran**

PERCUSSION

Jack Greenwell
Principal
Isaac Klemm
Ashton Bednar
HARP
Mary Grace Cope
Principal

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PROGRAM

SYMPHONY SCHOOL PRELUDE

CONDUCTOR: *EVAN HAGEN*

Allegro from Concerto Grosso Op. 6, No. 1

George Frideric Handel ~ *Arr. Deborah Baker Monday*

Hunter's Moon ~ Doug Spata

Arr. Michael Hopkins

SYMPHONY SCHOOL OVERTURE

Overture to Royal Fireworks Music

George Frideric Handel ~ *Arr. Richard Meyer*

Ancient Aires and Dances (Suite No. 1, "Baletto")

Ottorino Respighi ~ *Arr. Jerry Brubaker*

Radetzky March

Johann Strauss, Sr. ~ *Arr. Richard Meyer*
Conducted by: Maestro Bruce Wood

- INTERMISSION -

ANCHORAGE YOUTH SYMPHONY

CONDUCTOR: *MAESTRO BRUCE WOOD, PH.D.*

Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67 (1st mvnt.)

Ludwig van Beethoven

Karelia Overture, Op. 10

Jean Sibelius

Conducted by: Evan Hagen

Blue Tango

Leroy Anderson

Wedding Day at Troldhaugen

Edvard Grieg ~ *Arr. Gottfried Huppertz*

MUSIC NOTES

BY EVAN HAGEN, ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR

Allegro from Concerto Grosso Op. 6, No. 1

~ G.F. Handel ~ Arr. Deborah Baker Monday

Much of Handel's music is known for its grandiosity and excitement (think *Messiah*), and this piece is no exception. Featuring each section on repeated musical themes, it is both fun and challenging due to its introductions to shifting and changing accidentals.

Hunter's Moon ~ Doug Spata

Doug Spata has established himself as a new composer for young string players. This work, like some of his others, is characterized by a constant rhythmic drive and dramatic changes in volume.

Overture to Royal Fireworks Music

~ G.F. Handel ~ Arr. Richard Meyer

This is one of Handel's most endearing and recognizable tunes, however it was originally composed for performance outdoors by a huge wind ensemble: 24 oboes, 13 bassoons, 9 natural trumpets and horns each, and 3 pairs of timpani! In this modern arrangement, the string and wind sections are invited to pass musical ideas back and forth, and to join together in grand symphonic sound.

Ancient Aires and Dances (Suite No. 1, "Baletto")

~ Ottorino Respighi ~ Arr. Jerry Brubaker

In addition to writing popular works for modern orchestra, Respighi was a notable musicologist of his time. His *Ancient Aires and Dances* were transcribed from pieces originally for lute, this one in particular by Simone Molinaro (c.1570-1636). Thus, the music has a pure and joyful harmonic flavor unique within this concert.

Radetsky March ~ Johann Strauss, Sr. ~ Arr. Richard Meyer

A familiar favorite to fans of the Vienna Philharmonic, this is one of Strauss Sr.'s most popular and catchy works. Originally written for a military setting in 1848, it is a festive and celebratory piece that audiences in Vienna traditionally clap along with joyfully.

MUSIC NOTES

BY MAESTRO BRUCE WOOD

Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67 (1st mvt.)

Ludwig van Beethoven

The first movement of this most iconic work in classical music is a tour de force. The descending minor third is evocative of so many notions: fate, tragedy perhaps, but this small phrase puts Beethoven's structural genius on display. These beginning notes, repeated and repeated, are not a great melody, but rather a pillar of structure, compounded again and again, as if we are watching great "sound" architecture being built as we listen. To play this in a youth orchestra, there are a great many challenges. There is off-the-string bowing, short notes in the winds like small hammers, a contrasting section of lyricism and, of course, the trading of the four-note opening phrase in, hopefully, a seamless minor key parade of development. All this builds toward a final statement of drama and power.

Karelia Overture, Op. 10

Jean Sibelius

AYS performed Sibelius' most famous work, *Finlandia*, two years ago. The Karelia Overture was composed earlier, in 1893, six years before *Finlandia* and one year after Sibelius married Aino Järnefelt. Karelia is an area along the border of Finland and Russia and is known as the historic place of much Finnish national identity and poetry. Sibelius and his wife bought a house in the area and lived there off and on for their married lives. Sibelius became known as the nationalist composer of Finnish identity, especially as it relates to Finland's independence from Imperial Russia. The piece is right in the wheelhouse of AYS, with lyric and powerful themes epitomizing the struggle of a people who wish to be free from dominance.

Blue Tango

Leroy Anderson

Written in 1951, *Blue Tango* was a "hit" and its recording sold over a million copies. Arthur Fiedler, the longtime conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra, encouraged Anderson to compose for his orchestra, and in the coming years, he would write many American popular classics: *Bugler's Holiday*, *The Syncopated Clock*, *Plink, Plank*,

MUSIC NOTES (CONTINUED)

BY MAESTRO BRUCE WOOD

Plunk, and Sleigh Ride. Anderson's take on this tango partner dance in 4/4 is a syncopated "Ole" section along with a beautiful lyric melody. If there is room in the aisle and you have a partner, enjoy yourself!

Wedding Day at Troidhaugen

Edvard Grieg ~ Arr. Gottfried Huppertz

This lighthearted, joyful, and sentimental piece was composed for piano by Grieg to celebrate his and his wife Nina Hagerup's twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. Their home at Troidhaugen included a garden "hut" where Grieg composed some of his most famous works. A challenge for AYS in rehearsal has been to shift our playing from the heavy, fateful structure of Beethoven's Fifth to the sunny, lovely Wedding Day.



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EVAN HAGEN
AYO ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR

Evan Hagen is Assistant Conductor with the Alaska Youth Orchestras, working as a conductor and brass coach with both the Symphony School Ensembles and the Anchorage Youth Symphony. Born and raised in Anchorage, Evan performs as a hornist with the Anchorage Symphony, Opera, and Concert Chorus Orchestras, and is also a member of the Alaska Chamber Singers.



Before returning to Alaska from college, Evan studied horn under Dr. Jeffrey Snedeker at Central Washington University, where he pursued additional interests such as conducting, music history, and religious studies. Evan enjoys reading, meditating, running, and rock climbing.



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Michael Fredericks	Nanovsky	Carol & Eric Wren
Dale Gardner	Mary Neher, <i>in memory of</i>	Cari & Joe Zawodny, <i>in</i>
Jennifer Green, <i>in memory</i>	<i>Melissa Jayne Neher</i>	<i>honor of Ethan Zawodny</i>
<i>of Marcella Libbrecht</i>	Kate Nelson	
Kewei Gu	Glen Newton & Jill Singer	
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Deposit in the AYO donation box. *(Please include your name and contact information so we can acknowledge you in our next program!)*



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OUR HISTORY

The Anchorage Youth Symphony was formed in 1965 by Frank Pinkerton and has continued under the leadership of prominent local musicians and educators including Dewey Ehling, Kurt Pasch, Jeanne (Ray) Bruhn, Charles Gorsuch, Marlow Thomas, and, most recently, Linn Weeda.



In 1981 the Anchorage Youth Symphony Association began operating separately from the Anchorage School District and was granted 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. Shortly thereafter the organization adopted the name Alaska Youth Orchestras. Since then, the organization has remained an active member of the Anchorage arts community and has been a resident company of the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts since 2011.

Linn Weeda served as Music Director for 31 years, expanding the program to include coaching by local professional musicians, many who were in the youth symphony as young players. He retired in May 2021.

Maestro Bruce Wood, Ph.D., was selected as AYO's next Music Director in July 2021. Since then, Dr. Wood and Executive Director Denise Brown-Chythlook expanded AYO's education and performance programs, increasing their reach from 80 to 500 youth each year. The Anchorage Youth Symphony provides a professional performance experience for high school and college age musicians. Symphony School provides teaching ensembles for musicians from grades 4-12. AYO's most recent outreach program, After School Music (a community partnership with Camp Fire Alaska), provides a music inspiration program in an after-school care setting.

In August 2023, Pierre Derycz joined the AYO team as Executive Director, bringing a deep passion for music education and youth development. Under his leadership, AYO continues to participate in advocacy and community building efforts across the Anchorage Arts community.

PATRON INFORMATION

EMERGENCY

Fire Exits: There are numerous, convenient and clearly marked fire exits from all areas of the Center. Note the nearest exit as you take your seat. In case of emergency, the ushers will direct an orderly exit.

Emergency Calls: (during performances) 263-2965. Please leave the following information in order to be contacted in the facility: the event, theatre, seat number, and name.

First Aid: Contact the nearest usher.

Children: It is strongly recommended that children under 6 years of age not be brought to the theatre except for family events specifically described as such by the performing organization. In any event, all patrons, including children and babies, must have a ticket for admittance.

Latecomers will not be seated until an appropriate break in the performance, as determined by the presenting organization.

Cameras and Recording Equipment: The taking of photographs or the use of any audio or video recording device is strictly prohibited in the theatres unless permission is granted by the promoter.

Pagers, Alarm Watches, and Cellular Phones: Please silence your pagers, digital watch alarm and cellular telephones before the performance begins.

Smoking is permitted outside the building only. Smoking including use of an electronic smoking device is prohibited within 20 feet of each entrance per (AO 2006-86(S) and Alaska Statute 18.35.300 prohibits smoking in public indoor places.

Bottled water, purchased from the concessionaire or vending machines, is permitted in the theatres. Generally, **food and beverages are not allowed in the theatres unless otherwise advertised.**

Restrooms are located on the Street and Orchestra Levels in the Carr/Gottstein Lobby; in the Harrison Lobby, they are located on all levels. **Baby changing tables** are located in restrooms on Street level of the Lorene Harrison Lobby & Orchestra level of the Carr-Gottstein Lobby.

Coat Check is available on the street level of both the Lorene Harrison and Carr/Gottstein lobbies from October 1-May 1.

Accessible Services Program. The Alaska Center for the Performing Arts has an Accessible Services Program to better serve patrons who experience disabilities. It is our goal to provide a fully enjoyable experience to all patrons. Through these services, patrons with disabilities should have no hesitation in attending an event at the Alaska Center. Please call Accessible Services for best available accessible seating. For more information, contact Cindy Hamilton, Vice President, at 263-2902 (voice) or 263-2903 (TTY). A brochure about the program is available at the Center ticket office, the Center administrative office as well as from ushers.

Wheelchair Availability: Patrons may borrow a wheelchair, courtesy of the Carolyn Ramey Memorial Fund, for access to and within the theatres. Call Julie at 263-2902 or 263-2920.

Wheelchair Access is available in all theatres. Provisions are made for wheelchairs at the rear of each theatre and the front of the Atwood Concert Hall. Your advance notice to the Ticket Office is requested.

Assistance for hearing impaired. Head phones are available at the House Manager Station on Orchestra Level of the Lorene Harrison or Carr-Gottstein lobbies.

Parking is available in the Municipal Garage on 7th and G hourly parking is also available at 6th and H; the Penney's Garage on 6th and E Streets; the Fifth Avenue Mall Garage at 5th and C; State Garage on E Street & 7th, and on the street.

Personal Apparel: The Management is not responsible for personal apparel or other property of patrons. Patrons are advised to take wraps with them whenever they leave their seats. Lost and found items may be claimed at the Center office, 8am to 5pm.

TICKETING: CenterTix.com; CenterTix is Located in the Carr-Gottstein (South) Lobby of The Alaska Center for the Performing Arts (located across the street from Humpy's). Phone: (907) 263-ARTS (263-2787); 263-2717 (teletypewriter).

Ticketing Hours:

CenterTix at the Center:

Mon - Fri from 9am to 5pm
Saturday from 12pm to 5pm
Sunday - Closed

Call Center:

Mon-Fri from 9am to 5pm
Saturday from 12pm to 5pm
Sunday - Closed

Events: Box office is open 90 minutes prior to curtain time for ticketed events in the Center and remains open through the first intermission (or 30 minutes after curtain time if there is no intermission). **Unable to use your ticket? Call 263-ARTS (2787)**

Productions at the Center employ members of I.A.T.S.E. Local 918.



ALASKA CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS MANAGEMENT

The Alaska Center for the Performing Arts Inc., a nonprofit organization, manages the facility under contract to the Municipality of Anchorage. Administrative offices are located in the Center at 621 West 6th Avenue. Inquiries about booking the theatres should be directed to Cindy Hamilton, Vice President and Event Operations Director, 263-2919.

USHERING IN THE ARTS

"Ushering in the Arts," a project of the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, is also supported by ConocoPhillips, First National Bank Alaska, and the ushers themselves. For more information, call Melissa Weckhorst at 263-2920.



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