

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Juggling, Music, and Magic Swing into Anchorage, June 20-24



The New Old Time Chautauqua

“Be Mary” Tour 2019

Press Release

<http://www.chautauqua.org/>

Dates: Thursday June 20th – Monday June 24st, 2019

Location: Anchorage, Alaska

The New Old Time Chautauqua’s 2019 “Be Mary” Tour was made possible with funding by Rasmuson Foundation through the Harper Arts Touring Fund, and is administered by the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

About the Tour

This June, 57 members of the troupe The New Old Time Chautauqua will be embarking on a three-week-long tour of Southcentral Alaska, including Talkeetna, Anchorage, Seward, and Homer, sponsored in part by the Northern Culture Exchange. This multi-generational troupe of artists, performers, educators, and musicians travels together every summer, bringing live performances, free workshops, and community service to small towns across America.

We aim to delight, educate, amaze, and provoke the imagination of adults and children alike. With the intention of inspiring creativity and supporting community, our traveling troupe partners with local organizations and service groups to present Chautauqua events.

In Alaska, we will be bringing this joy to prisons, homeless and at-risk populations, indigenous communities, adults with disabilities, nursing homes, Mary Langham's friends and family, and the general public - of all ages and stripes.

The Big Vaudeville Variety Show at The Performing Arts Center

In Anchorage, The New Old Time Chautauqua will be partnering with **Alaska Junior Theater** to present a show in the Atwood Concert Hall on Sunday, June 23rd, 2019, at 4:00pm. This knock-ye-socks off vaudeville extravaganza offers an evening of entertainment and delight for the whole family - juggling, acrobatics, dancing, magic, mime, live music, and more - and will feature locally and internationally-acclaimed talent.

Tickets are available at centertix.com.

The Flying Karamazov Brothers will wow you with their hilarious juggling and cheap theatrics; **The Langham Family** will clown from their heart, local Anchorage vaudevillian **Fiona Rose** will charm you with her potent lyricism and twinkle toes; hula hooper extraordinaire **Vanessa Vortex** will impress you with her coordination and grace; movement artist **Matthew “Poki” McCorkle** plays with invisible worlds and very real fire; **Phina and Sophie Pipia** perform a hilarious tandem sister act on their sousaphones; also in the program- even more juggling, magic, acrobatics, and belly-laughs!

Throughout the show, enjoy the rousing live music and zany wisecracks by the **Fighting Instruments of Karma Marching Chamber Band/Orchestra**, who play music ranging from marches and sambas to New Orleans Jazz.

Free Community Events in Anchorage

Chautauqua will put on a 45-minute show at the **Lousacc Library** at 10:30am on Friday, June 21st in the Wilda Marston Theater or outside (weather permitting). The event is **FREE** and open to the public.

Our band, the Fighting Instruments of Karma, will be putting on an all-ages musical experience at **Charlou** (located at 3300 Spenard - the “old Taproot”/La Potato location) on June 21st with doors opening at 7:30pm. The marching band will play marches, sambas, and New Orleans Jazz. This music show will also feature our singer-songwriters, which include Anchorage locals Fiona Rose, French Jessica, and Betsy Ure, Tyler Langham of Animal Eyes (based out of Homer/Portland), Phina and Sophie Pipia of Port Townsend, Harmony Lyrics from Bellingham, and Kym “Momazon” Trippsmith. There will be a \$10 suggested donation at the door.

We will be collaborating with **Anchorage Downtown Partnership** as part of the **The Downtown Summer Solstice Festival** on Saturday, June 22. The celebration will be taking place from 12noon-6:00pm on 4th avenue from C to L streets in downtown Anchorage. At 1:30pm, our marching band, The Fighting Instruments of Karma Marching Chamber Band Slash Orchestra, will parade around the festival, then put on a short teaser show on the stage at 2:00pm, followed by performances by a few of our singer-songwriters. Afterward, we will be offering **FREE** workshops from 3:00pm-6:00pm. For additional information on this event, please visit www.anchoragedowntown.org.

Community Service in Anchorage

On our way into Anchorage, Chautauqua will stop at **Hiland Mountain Correctional Center** in Eagle River to perform a show and teach workshops to the women there. Chautauqua will also present free workshops and a show to **McLaughlin Youth Center**. We hope to bring laughter, love, and light to those living in detention and to spark a sense of wonder and enthusiasm in incarcerated individuals.

We will also put on a show at **The Covenant House**, a local center for homeless teens, and offer workshops at both locations as well.

Celebrating Mary Langham

The "Be Mary" tour will celebrate the life and legacy of longtime Alaskan **Mary Langham**, an artist, circus founder and educator, mother, teacher, doctor, writer, Chautauqua Tour Organizer, and just an all-around joyfully dynamic person. Eight members of her family, including three of her children, a grandchild, and her husband, will be part of this journey.

(Please use the following language in any written publication to properly thank the Rasmuson Foundation and the Alaska State Council on the Arts:)

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More on Workshops

We are offering over 20 workshops on tour. Workshops are open to all ages and skill levels. We will offer a collection of the following workshops below for free during our workshops sessions! Which workshops are offered will depend on the needs of the community and who is present on tour and available to teach a workshop!

Circus Arts/Physical Movement

- **Circus Movement for Littles** - Meghan Holtan - Circus movement for kids aged 2-5
- **Defying Gravity: An Introduction to Clowning** - Kristin Crowley
- **Hula-Hoop Revolution** - Learn to hula hoop with Harmony Lyrics and friends
- **Juggling** - balls, clubs, scarves - taught by a consortium of Chautauquans
- **Mime** - learn to interact with invisible worlds.
- **Slackline** - an all-ages balance game!

Music, Games, and Crafts

- **Bracelet's Be Friends** - friendship bracelets!
- **Facepainting** - get pretty!
- **Fool's Proof** - improvisational games that will get your mind moving and your heart racing!
- **Hand Whistling** - learn to make music with your own two hands!
- **"The Paper Orchestra"** -
- **Song Swap** - sing along to familiar folk tunes - lyrics provided!
- **Uke Can Do It** - learn a few chords on the ukulele - open to all skill levels.
- **Yoga** - stretch out and relax or challenge your balance. Breathe.

Informational

- **Alaska Healing Oils** - taught by Donna McKay a Tlingit/Haida elder -for teens and adults
- **Ayurveda Self-Care Essentials: Loving Your Watershed** - By Kym Trippsmith - teens and adults
- **CPR** - By Jorjann Plimmer, registered nurse. Learn to save lives with your own two hands - all ages welcome
- **The Doctrine of Discovery** - By Paul Magid - a history of imperialism - teens and adults
- **The Fitted Sheet - Know When to Fold 'Em** - By Paul Magid - How to fold the fitted sheet - all ages
- **First Aid** - By Zoe Iris - teens and adults

What is a Chautauqua?

Chautauqua was a cultural and social movement that started in the 1870s and flourished until the mid-1920s. Hundreds of touring Circuit Chautauquas presented lectures, dance, music, drama, and other forms of cultural enrichment. This popular form of live entertainment faded during the economic challenges of the Great Depression as radio broadcasts and motion pictures became mainstream.

The New Old Time Chautauqua was founded in 1981 by the Flying Karamazov Brothers, Patch Adams, and Faith Petric. Inspired by the traveling Chautauquas of the early 20th century, Chautauqua aims to be a catalyst for strengthening communities and elevating lives through laughter, inspiration, and learning. For the past 36 years, the dedicated group of performers and educators have volunteered their summer months to bring high quality live entertainment and arts education to communities throughout the United States; visiting rural communities, Native American reservations, schools, prisons, youth correctional facilities, assisted living facilities, and hospitals.

The organization has brought joy and entertainment to communities throughout California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, South Dakota, Alaska and British Columbia, and post-Katrina New Orleans.

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Please use the following logos whenever including printed images to properly thank the Rasmuson Foundation and the Alaska State Council on the Arts:

<https://education.alaska.gov/aksca/logos.html>

For more information, please contact the folks below. Chautauquans are available to be interviewed!

Fiona Worcester

2019 Tour Organizer,

Secretary of the Board, The New Old Time Chautauqua

fionaworcester@gmail.com

413-884-2359 (cell) ← Her number is not local, **but she lives in Anchorage!**

Nate Wheeler

Promotions

The New Old Time Chautauqua

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You will find high-resolution photos for the purpose of promoting Chautauqua [here](http://chautauqua.org/press.html) (<http://chautauqua.org/press.html>) and [here](#).