About #Folk2022

The 2022 Folk Alliance International Conference was the reunion we’ve all been waiting for. After two years of not meeting in person due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and an additional postponement from our original February date to May, we were finally able to gather in person with our community!

With some modifications in place to make it safe for in-person attendees and engaging for those attending online only, we were able to mount a successful hybrid conference that included 1,547 attendees in total.

This event was not without its challenges, though. Official Showcase and panelist cancellations created a lot of last minute schedule changes, and technical issues created additional challenges, but through the patience and kindness of the community, we made it work!

This year’s theme was Living Traditions and was explored through topics of music preservation, migration, evolution, and authenticity, while the Global Summit highlighted the work of folklorists.

New Models of Learning

This year we experimented with new shapes of gathering, and our survey tells us that attendees want more! The Let’s Talk series (Top Tips video followed by Live Q&A) and Collaborative Problem Solving gatherings (speakers each uncovering a curiosity on a particular subject, and then facilitating interactive small group conversations to offer an immersive experience) will both be back by popular demand in 2023, on a new group of topics related to sustainability. Stay tuned!
During the 2022 International Folk Music Awards, we honored and celebrated community members, leaders, and emerging talent including Nanci Griffith, Flaco Jiménez, Jason Mraz, Mali Obomsawin, Lilli Lewis, Gaelynn Lea, and many more. In addition to announcing the member-voted 2021 Song, Album, and Artist of the Year, we presented the Lifetime Achievement, Spirit of Folk, People's Voice, Rising Tide, and Clearwater Awards, in addition to inductions into the Folk DJ Hall of Fame.

The awards show opened with a land acknowledgement by Elexa Dawson and Thea Hopkins and a song by gospel group Isaac Cates & Ordained. There were feature performances by nominees Crys Matthews, John Smith, and Diana Jones. Award presenters included Chris Porter, Ayappa Biddanda, Liz Levitt-Hirsch, Tim Baker, and more.
For the 2022 Artist in Residence project, British-Canadian multi-instrumentalist Saskia Tomkins was invited to partner with The Mixed Museum in London, England. The result was a commissioned instrumental piece weaving Roma, traditional fiddle, and blues elements to accompany a narrated photo essay exploring Tomkins’ family search to find her grandfather, a segregated African-American G.I. who was forbidden to marry his white girlfriend and required to return to the US. His daughter (Tomkins’ mother) was twice placed in an orphanage as part of England’s buried and rarely-discussed “Brown Babies” era.

Created to foster cultural cross-pollination, diversify audiences, and nurture artistic growth, FAI’s Artist in Residence (AIR) program pairs folk musicians with institutions and community organizations through innovative partnerships.
Presented by FAI and co-hosted by American Folklore Society and the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress with funding in part through the National Endowment for the Arts, this summit brought together folklorists, artists, and industry professionals to consider pathways and barriers to practicing tradition as a profession and to being recognized as an expert in artistic and academic spaces. It was a four hour discussion about equitable professional practice in the field, the historic entanglements of the labels, and the urgent needs for moving our field forward in a healthier ecosystem where artists, tradition keepers, folklorists, administrators, and presenters work together with a more shared authority, more direct profits and IP to tradition bearers, and with empathy and kindness.

**Centering Disability in the Music Industry Summit**

The Centering Disability in the Music Industry Summit, in partnership with Global Toronto, was a half-day online convening bringing together folks with disabilities who work in the music industry and or belong to the folk music community. During the conference, a summary session took place where recommendations, questions, and calls to action that emerged from presentations and group discussion during the summit were presented.

The summit summary was presented by Adam Perry, Gaelynn Lea, Lilli Lewis, and Mark Erelli.

**Folklorist Summit: Tradition as Profession**

Presented by FAI and co-hosted by American Folklore Society and the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress with funding in part through the National Endowment for the Arts, this summit brought together folklorists, artists, and industry professionals to consider pathways and barriers to practicing tradition as a profession and to being recognized as an expert in artistic and academic spaces. It was a four hour discussion about equitable professional practice in the field, the historic entanglements of the labels, and the urgent needs for moving our field forward in a healthier ecosystem where artists, tradition keepers, folklorists, administrators, and presenters work together with a more shared authority, more direct profits and IP to tradition bearers, and with empathy and kindness.
This year’s 158 Official Showcases were presented in an exciting hybrid format: all of the in-person Official Showcases were recorded and available online the next day for virtual attendees, while some were presented entirely online only. This allowed folks who were unable to attend in-person to still showcase their talents, and provided a wider range of performances for the industry to access.

This year’s Official Showcases artists included folks like Sierra Hull, Rosier, Waahli, Julia Othmer, Le Diable à Cinq, Abby Posner, Julian Taylor, John Smith, and many more.
Spotlight Showcases

We brought back the Spotlight Showcases from the 2021 Folk Unlocked Virtual Conference with eight partners presenting 52 acts total from a wide range of genres performing pre-recorded live performances. Each performance premiered online with a virtual chat for attendees to engage in, with a lobby social in Bramble at the end of each night.

This year’s partners were BreakOut West, Canadian Music. East Coast Style, CIRCULART, Kari Estrin Mgmt/Consulting & Radio Promo, Kerrville Folk Festival, New Zealand Music Commission, Sounds Australia, and Yep Roc Records.

Private Showcases

It was exciting to have in-person Private Showcases again, with some safety measures in place! There were half the usual number of Private Showcase rooms spread out more and masks were required to help make this beloved conference event as safe as possible. Thank you to our Private Showcase hosts and attendees who adhered to the new policies in this strange year!
Compose Your Career x FAI

We were thrilled to partner with Jayme Stone of Compose Your Career to bring a four-hour in-person workshop to the conference, featuring some of the core Compose Your Career information. The workshop was divided into two parts: “Branding & Story” and “How to Book Yourself Without an Agent.” Attendees learned how to write catchy copy, craft a pitch, position their project for success, understand booking seasons, and much more.

Art of Mass Gatherings in Kansas City

Another exciting partnership this year was with the Art of Mass Gatherings (hosted by FAI, Majestic Collaborations, and Performing Arts Readiness), an experiential training for arts administrators and event organizers to elevate the safety, accessibility, sustainability, and community responsiveness of events.

This free one-day workshop utilized the infrastructure of the conference as a hands-on classroom for building cross-fluencies between event production and emergency response and culminated with on-site activities on the grounds of the Kansas City Folk Festival, including learning sessions and demonstrations of sustainable power and waste infrastructure.
Community Gathering: Folk Forward

During the 2022 CommUNITY Gathering, FAI board and staff members shared a birds eye view of equity work and policy planning projects underway. Led by FAI Board President Amy Reitnouer Jacobs, we reviewed our strategic plan and where we’re headed in the future. The co-convenors of the FAI Cultural Equity Council, Karima Daoudi and Dom Flemons, presented the findings of the council, while Dan Navarro and Reid Wick shared a regional update, and FAI’s Director of Operations, Jennifer Roe, gave an update on the organization’s budget.

The session wrapped up with an update from FAI’s former Board President Lisa Schwartz, as chair of the Executive Director Search Committee, and a final address by our current Executive Director, Aengus Finnan.

Affinity Groups + Peer Sessions

One of the main recommendations of the Cultural Equity Council was to continue building on Affinity Group gatherings. At the conference, 12 Affinity Group gatherings and 13 Peer Sessions convened, with robust attendance and deepened engagement. These important opportunities for connection and community building will continue to be a focus of year-round programming and future conference planning.
Conference Stats

2 Keynotes
12 Affinity Groups
14 Peer Sessions

268 Artists
12 Mentorship Meetings
400 Pre-Conference One-on-One Meetings

Attendee Information
1,547 Total number of conference attendees
1,229 In-Person Conference Attendees
318 Virtual Conference Attendees

Demographic Breakdown

Panelists
- Outside U.S.: 25%
- BIPOC: 49%
- LGBTQ2IA+: 17%
- Disability: 13%
- Female/Non-binary: 52%

Peer Session Hosts
- Outside U.S.: 13%
- BIPOC: 32%
- LGBTQ2IA+: 13%
- Disability: 13%
- Female/Non-binary: 74%

Affinity Group Hosts
- Outside U.S.: 24%
- BIPOC: 36%
- LGBTQ2IA+: 24%
- Disability: 8%
- Female/Non-binary: 68%

IFMAs*
- Outside U.S.: 16%
- BIPOC: 41%
- LGBTQ2IA+: 20%
- Disability: 16%
- Female/Non-binary: 58%

*including performances and presenters, not including organizations

Conference Attendee Breakdown
- 47% Artists
- 39% Industry
- 7% Presenter
- 7% Affiliates

Total Presenters: 206
- 28% Concert Series
- 27% Festival
- 25% House Concert
- 16% Venue
- 4% Theater
- <1% Camp
FAI’s strategic plan prioritizes diversity, equity, inclusion, and international growth. Presented here are the responses to questions in the post-conference survey regarding FAI’s progress toward meeting related goals.

### Countries in Attendance

- Australia
- Belgium
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Cuba
- Denmark
- Egypt
- England
- Estonia
- Germany
- Greece
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Iran
- Ireland
- Italy
- Mexico
- Morocco
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Northern Ireland
- Norway
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Scotland
- Senegal
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- United States
- Wales

### Showcase Numbers

- **120** In-Person Official Showcases
- **38** Virtual Official Showcases
- **38** Private Showcase Hosts
- **1014** Private Showcase Performances
- **275** Private Showcase Artists
- **9** Spotlight Showcases

### 2022 Survey Responses (388 Total)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2022 Report Card</th>
<th>2023 Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Range of Ages</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range of Career Levels</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Balance</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range of Folk Genres</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence of Underrepresented Groups and People of Color</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Diversity</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Representation</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Thank you, Volunteers!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Danny Alexander</th>
<th>Paul Eklund</th>
<th>Jennifer Kiper</th>
<th>Jessie Riggins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Molly Baker</td>
<td>Jann Fairbanks</td>
<td>Nancy Knab</td>
<td>Alicia Ringgard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Bates</td>
<td>Helen Faubion</td>
<td>Shawn Krider</td>
<td>Mary Kay Savage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Belk</td>
<td>Brian Fees</td>
<td>Ronnie Lamendola</td>
<td>Karyn Sally Schafer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betty J Berry</td>
<td>Mary Fowler</td>
<td>Tom Langdon</td>
<td>Charles Schulte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krystle Bertoncin</td>
<td>Lona Fox</td>
<td>Joanie Levenson</td>
<td>Nikia Schulte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Black</td>
<td>Phil Franklin</td>
<td>Jim Luchsinger</td>
<td>Steve Shelledy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan Bowes</td>
<td>Susan Frazier</td>
<td>Carol Lunczewski</td>
<td>Jeffrey Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Braun</td>
<td>Carol Gard</td>
<td>David Luther</td>
<td>Lynn Snyder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Budd</td>
<td>Gregg Gehrig</td>
<td>Grant Mallet</td>
<td>Eric Steck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashley Virginia Buffa</td>
<td>Eve Goldberg</td>
<td>Anne Mather</td>
<td>Randy Styka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christine Butchart</td>
<td>Brigid Greene</td>
<td>Rodger McBride</td>
<td>John Summers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedro Calderon</td>
<td>William Haight</td>
<td>Gale McCray</td>
<td>Karen Tannen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Casey</td>
<td>Brandi Hanksin</td>
<td>Cecilia McDonald</td>
<td>Maryem Tollar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackie Casteel</td>
<td>Greg Hanksin</td>
<td>Keri Meinking</td>
<td>David Alexis Torrejon Cifuentes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Catechis</td>
<td>David Harmsen</td>
<td>Nancy Meis</td>
<td>Tom Troyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katelyn Chapin</td>
<td>Leslie Harmsen</td>
<td>Susan Moreno</td>
<td>Andrew Tyson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jay Coleman</td>
<td>John Hatch</td>
<td>Jaina Mosburg</td>
<td>Trisha Van Wig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Conley</td>
<td>Jean Hatfield</td>
<td>Maria Concepcion Neuling Pereira</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen Connors</td>
<td>Mark Haug</td>
<td>Amanda Nygard</td>
<td>Laura Jane Vincent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Crotty</td>
<td>Joan Hinkebein</td>
<td>Louise O'Connor</td>
<td>Mike Warren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rita Danaher</td>
<td>Barney Hubert</td>
<td>Mallory Paddock</td>
<td>Rhonda Webb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandon Day</td>
<td>David Jeffery</td>
<td>Jennifer Pickering</td>
<td>Bob Weiser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tayler DeLeon</td>
<td>Lally Jennings</td>
<td>Nadia Piotrowsky</td>
<td>Paul Wenske</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greg DiVilbiss</td>
<td>M. Wayne Jennings</td>
<td>Michael Praetorius</td>
<td>Neal Wolahan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Duffin</td>
<td>Marcia Johnson</td>
<td>Alex Regeimbal</td>
<td>Mike Younger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stellar Dutcher</td>
<td>John Keck</td>
<td>Patsy Richardson</td>
<td>Paul Zimmerman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you, Staff and Board!

**Staff**
- Aengus Finnan
  Executive Director
- Jennifer Roe
  Deputy Director
- Alex Mallett
  Development Director
- Jerod Rivers
  Conference Director
- Marisa Kolka
  Communications Manager
- Treasa Levasseur
  Program & Community Engagement Manager
- Fawn Lies
  Digital Media Coordinator
- Tisha Naipaul
  Membership & Development Coordinator
- Sara Gougeon
  Communications/Marketing Assistant
- Lily Joiner
  Assistant Graphic Designer
- Nick Loss-Eaton
  Publicist

**Conference Staff**
- Hannah Bright
  Online Event Coordinator
- Elexa Dawson
  Outreach Coordinator
- Claire Diamond
  Official Showcase Production Coordinator
- Beth Hatch
  Volunteer Coordinator
- Giselle Lee Hausman
  Official Showcase Production Coordinator
- Kylee Lambert
  IFMAs/VIP/Special Events Coordinator
- Tim McClure
  Official Showcase Production Coordinator
- Katie Rich
  Staff Photographer
- Peter Shafran
  Official Showcase Production Coordinator
- Jim Schultz
  Private Showcase Coordinator
- Arielle Silver
  Daytime Program Production Coordinator
- Mollie Stephens
  IFMAs/VIP/Special Events Coordinator
- Shadow Scape Records
  Video/Photo Team

**Board**
- Amy Reitnouer Jacobs
  President
- Reid Wick
  Vice President
- Kevin Dalton
  Treasurer
- Laura Thomas
  Secretary
- Rosalyn Dennett
  At Large
- Ayappa Biddanda
- Lynn Cingari
- Iona Fyfe
- Catalina Maria Johnson
- Michael Kornfeld
- Sara Leishman
- Gary Paczosa
- Chris Porter
- Ann Powers
- Caroline Randall Williams
- Ashley Shabankareh
- Alka Sharma
- Guillermo Subauste
- Gerald Torres
- Brandi Waller-Pace
Thank you, Sponsors!
Thank you, Sponsors!

Additional

Partner Events

Media + Promotional

Conference Funders

Enid & Crosby Kemper Foundation

Martin Guitar Charitable Foundation
About Folk Alliance International

Founded in 1989, Folk Alliance International (FAI) is a National Arts Service Organization based in Kansas City, Missouri, USA.

FAI defines folk broadly as “the music of the people” (reflective of any community they are from), and programs a diverse array of sub-genres including, but not limited to Acadian, Appalachian, Americana, Bluegrass, Blues, Cajun, Celtic, Electro-Folk, Global Roots, Hip-Hop, Indie-Folk, Jazz, Old Time, Singer-Songwriter, Spoken Word, Traditional, Zydeco, and various fusions.

We are a registered 501(c)3 organization with the EIN 56-1698333.

Land Acknowledgement

Folk Alliance International’s office and annual conference are located on is located on the ancestral Indigenous land of the Osage, Kansa, Kaw, Kickapoo, and Očhéthi Šakówiŋ nations, also known as Kansas City. We honor with gratitude their elders: past, present, and future.

The purpose of making this land acknowledgment in post-colonial society is to show respect for Indigenous peoples and their traditional territories, to recognize their unique culture and enduring relationship to the land, and to raise awareness about histories that have often been replaced, suppressed, or forgotten.

We acknowledge that we were joined at the conference by folks from around the globe, using technology not accessible to all. We recognize the importance, complexity, and difficulty of land acknowledgments when organizing, creating, and collaborating online. We invite you to consider our roles in reconciliation, decolonization, and active allyship.

Contact

601 Avenida Cesar E. Chavez
Suite 100
Kansas City, MO 64108

816-221-3655
folk.org