

Alaska String Band

Hailing from Alaska's capital city of Juneau, the Zahasky family, also recognized internationally as the Alaska String Band, brings the best of Americana music. This dynamic five member family band makes their home on the last frontier and is the subject of much curiosity and inspiration for all those who happen to be fortunate to see one of their shows. When not out recreating in the magnificent wilderness setting of their remote home town which can only be visited by either boat or plane (there are no roads to access Juneau, Alaska) this family occupies itself by entertaining visitors on board cruise ships in Alaskan waters and at the Chilkat Theatre among the alpine slopes of a mountain top destination during the Alaskan summer months. On board a forty-foot bus, the Alaska String Band ventures further abroad and is quickly gaining an enthusiastic following in the lower forty-eight states as it tours nationally each fall and early winter bringing its extraordinary music and fascinating Southeast Alaska Odyssey show to thousands.

This family-friendly performance artfully weaves a tapestry of atmospheric impressions giving an intimate peek into the curiosities of one of our nation's treasured and pristine wilderness escapes. Moving along at a lively pace, American-roots music favorites are showcased touching on genres such as swing - jazz - bluegrass - pop - dawg - gospel, Hawaiian and Celtic. Of particular interest are original tunes composed and sung by this ensemble which reflects the hardship of the gold fever experience as well as a ballad, The Wreck of the Princess Sophia, which soulfully depicts the courage and tragedy of early explorers in Alaska's untouched wilderness. As gifted multi-instrumentalists the family often swap instruments throughout a performance with an impressive collection of acoustic stringed instruments including guitars, violin-fiddles, mandolins, dulcimer, banjo, bass, ukuleles and percussion; knitting it all together are the "Z" family signature vocal harmonies. Evocative photographic images provide a backdrop of rich historical context in the spirit of Alaska; featuring wildlife, scenery, history, hard rock mining enterprises, native culture, contemporary lifestyle and adventure. The Zahasky family narration brings to life ancient customs and stories as well as an intimate peek at the lives of contemporary Alaskans - laced with humor, scandal, tragedy and celebration. Of particular delight to audiences across the nation, the Alaska String Band appears in this season's gorgeous and authentic Alaskan native Eskimo kuspuk costumes; exclusively designed and hand crafted by the Zahasky family. An inside note on the family will reveal Paul and Melissa, husband and wife; and their three children, Laura 19, son Quinn 17 and Abigail age 13.

What are others saying about the Alaska String Band???

"There's a family band playing bluegrass up here on the mountain and they totally wail!" Juneau Empire.

"The Alaska String Band are one of the most entertaining groups you will see." Byron Berline -- world famous fiddler and founder & director of the Oklahoma International Bluegrass Festival.

"These guys are shredders!" Atlin Arts and Music Festival -- Atlin, British Columbia, Canada.

"A perennial favorite in and around Alaska for their lively, high quality string music. Their concerts are relaxed, up-beat and charming. Audiences love them." Juneau Arts and Humanities Council.

"This group is polished and harmonies are totally off the charts. Not just your typical bluegrass group but truly a showstopper." T.C., Texas talent seeker.

"The last event in which I served as keynote speaker had really good entertainment. But these folks (Alaska String Band) are Alaska good. The Alaska String Band Rocks!" Sarah Palin -- former governor of the state of Alaska.

Learn more about the Alaska String Band on the Web at alaskastringband.net . And be sure to attend one of the Alaska String Band's celebrated performances at a venue near you.