



Vincent Yaska, Athabascan fiddler from Galena, performs with his students Eileen Newman and Kelly Orrison of Rampart at the 1985 fiddling festival.

Rob Stapleton photo courtesy of IANA

• 'Unique tradition'

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The institute, well known throughout the Interior for the sponsorship of the Annual Athabascan Old-Time Fiddlers Festival held in Fairbanks each November, provides services to performers year round.

Those services include coordination of performances and presentations, promotion of artists' work and education and audience development statewide.

Jean Flanagan Carlo, executive director, said the school residency program will be an important way to expand and develop an audience for "one of Alaska's most unique cultural traditions."

The residency project began this month and will continue through May. Fiddlers and back-up guitarists are traveling throughout the Interior for one-week residencies in the villages of

Manley, Kaltag, Nulato, Ruby, Hughes, Allakaket, Koyukuk, Huslia, Minto and Bettles.

Each residency consists of two days of performances and presentations with local musicians and dancers followed by two days with musicians from another village or region. The students will then be exposed to local talent as well as different tunes and dances from other villages.

The final day of the residency will feature a jam session in the school and a public dance organized by students and community members.

The Athabascan Old-Time Fiddlers Residency Project is funded by the Johnson O'Malley Program of the Bureau of Indian Affairs through the Yukon Koyukuk School District.

Those who would like more information may write the Institute of Alaska Native Arts, Box 80583, Fairbanks 99708; or call 456-7491.