



A young member of the Akiuk Memorial School Dancers of Kasigluk, Alaska performs at the Festival of Native Arts February 23 at University of Alaska Fairbanks' Concert Hall. *Photo by Cal White*

Festival of Native Arts serves many purposes

by D. Vera James
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Dressed in brown, fur-trimmed apparel and moccasins, Native Siberian Sergey Rastorguev captured the full attention of some 1,000 onlookers at the 22nd Annual Festival of

Native Arts in Fairbanks as he balanced a 10-foot beam from atop his forehead, tossing a ball into a small bowl at its end. Children gathered attentively around the University of Alaska Fairbanks Concert Hall stage, awed with the 30-minute performance of tricks and singing by Sergey and

his wife, Marfa.

This year's Festival, held February 23-25, kicked off one of the biggest years of traditional singing and dancing by some 25 groups from all over Alaska, including Savoonga, Kasigluk, Kenai, Kodiak, Haines,

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