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Order of Canada for John Arcand

Jean-Baptiste Arcand, also known as John Arcand, or the "Master of the Métis Fiddle," was recently named a member of the Order of Canada.

The Order of Canada is the centerpiece of Canada's honour system and recognizes a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation. The Order recognizes people in all sectors of Canadian society.

Their contributions are varied, yet they have all enriched the lives of others and made a difference to this country. The Order of Canada's motto is *DESIDERANTES MELIOREM PATRIAM* (They desire a better country).

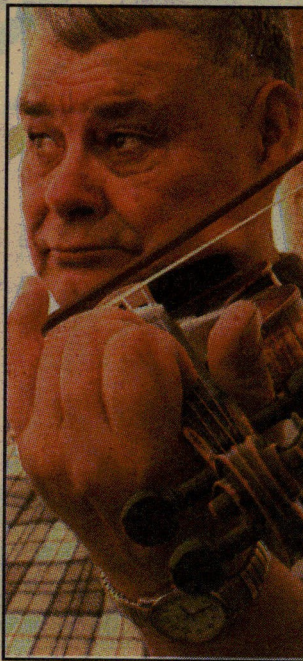
News of the honour came as a surprise to the renowned fiddler.

"The Governor General's Office telephoned me. They said they needed to know if I would accept and, well I just couldn't believe my ears," says Arcand.

"I was shocked and

actually a little emotional. I just kept thinking this is unreal!"

Arcand joins other Saskatchewan Aboriginal luminaries including Freda Ahenakew, Ida Wasacase, Hilliard McNab and John B. and Gor-



don Tootosis as a Member of the Order of Canada. He says being placed in such select company adds to the honour.

"I feel honoured and proud. That's a great group of people to be among, and personally I

feel that this is the highest award a Canadian citizen can receive and I feel extremely fortunate to have been nominated and to accept the honor.

Arcand is known nationally for the renowned John Arcand Fiddle Fest. He founded this festival in 1998 with a dream to promote and preserve the traditions of fiddle music and dance.

Widely recognized as the "Master of the Metis Fiddle", John embarked on his own musical journey thanks to the influence of his father, who started imparting his knowledge of the art on his son before John even started school.

Now he loves to share his knowledge and talent with youth, so they can continue the tradition.

The 10th Anniversary edition of the John Arcand Fiddle Fest takes place August 9-12, 2007 at Windy Acres on the Pike Lake Highway.

For complete details visit www.johnarcandfiddlefest.com