

Achievements:

- Received the Lifetime Achievement for Excellence in the Arts at the Inaugural Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor's Arts Awards in 2004
- Recipient of the 2003 National Aboriginal Achievement Award for Arts and Culture
- Presented a "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Canadian Grand Masters for his Outstanding Contribution to Old Time Fiddling in August of 2003
- Received the "Blue Lantern Award" for Music, Heritage and Culture in 2003
- Selected to be part of an Irish-Metis Cultural Exchange in 2001, spending 7 days in Dublin and playing for the President of Ireland
- Chosen as one of 27 people world-wide to represent Western Canada at the Fiddles of the World Conference held in Halifax in 1999
- Founder of the "John Arcand Fiddle Fest" which is becoming one of Western Canada's largest outdoor music festivals.
- Has released nine solo recordings

John is a qualified Luthier and a collector of fine instruments. And, he also does repairs and appraisals.

The John Arcand Fiddle Fest is held the second weekend in August every year, on John's acreage – 7 kms south-west of Saskatoon. This three day festival features FREE Workshops, a 7 category fiddle contest, the Canadian Red River Jigging Championships and many concert showcases, an Old Time Dance and lots of special entertainment.



For Information On:

- Concerts and performances
- Workshops on Métis and Old Time Fiddling
- Dances
- Cultural Events
- Contest Judging
- Fiddle Camp Instruction
- Private and Group Lessons
- Instrument Sales
- Instrument repairs
- Instrument appraisals
- The John Arcand Fiddle Fest
- C.D.'s, cassettes and music books
- School Presentations

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www.johnarcand.com

John Arcand

"Master of the Métis Fiddle"

www.johnarcand.com



"I have found this quiet, gentle man to be a giant in the Canadian Fiddle world. He is highly respected as a collector of fiddle tunes in the Metis Tradition, with a strong desire to see this music performed and preserved for all generations. He has performed his original music and the music of the Metis internationally and received many awards for his contributions. Because of his dedication and recognition for his work in fiddling, John Arcand is a cultural treasure for Saskatchewan, Canada and the world."

Trent Bruner/ Accompanist

"John Arcand better known as the 'Master of the Metis Fiddle' is referred to as a legend in the fiddle world. As a Metis cultural/arts leader, John has founded numerous fiddle organizations and dance groups that provide valuable opportunities for youth, artists and the community members to further develop their interests, skills and appreciation for the art of fiddling. We are extremely proud of John's outstanding contributions to enhancing and preserving old time fiddling and as a highly respected and inspiring mentor for youth and artists alike. John's skill and commitment to his artistic form and his strong spirit continue to make a positive impact on the growth and development of individuals and communities. As an internationally renowned and accomplished Metis artist, cultural leader, performer, composer and recording artist, it is essential that John Arcand's artistic gifts continue to be appreciated, created, developed, and available throughout the world."

Donna Heimbecker/Sask. Native Theatre

"John Arcand is not only an extraordinary musician, but also an accomplished composer, luthier, music historian and has dedicated his whole life to the preservation of Metis Fiddle, music, dance and culture. His fiddle compositions are played around the world, and his performances at festivals and events, his numerous television and radio appearances and his tours to Ireland, Cape Breton and the United States have made him a world-renowned performer."

Murray Hamilton/ Suntep/GDC

"As a founding Director of the John Arcand Fiddle Fest Inc., I am constantly in awe of John's creative abilities, driving passion, endless conviction and his determination to promote and preserve the traditional Metis style of fiddling that he is so well known for. Watching his "Brain Child" - the John Arcand Fiddle Fest grow over the years has left me feeling inspired by the dedication of one individual for a cause that benefits so many. A venue like the Fiddle Fest has played a very big role in the promotion of Saskatchewan Artists, the awareness of many cultures and mostly the importance of following your dreams. John is truly a mentor and friend to all who have the pleasure of knowing him or working with him."

Bobbe Poncelet/ Development Consultant

JOHN ARCAND

"MASTER OF THE METIS FIDDLE"

Metis fiddling is a style all it's own, a style developed in Western Canada, with influences borrowed from the music brought by the European and French fur traders. And, when you think of traditional Metis fiddle, one fiddler who stands out is John Arcand – the undisputed "Master of the Metis Fiddle".

Originally from the Debden - Big River area of Saskatchewan, John now makes his home south of Saskatoon on his acreage – Windy Acres. John started playing fiddle at the age six, with coaching from his Father Victor Arcand and his Grandfather Jean-Baptiste Arcand, and by age twelve he was playing for dances.

John developed and refined a style of playing that has helped him become a legend in the fiddle world. His impeccable sense of timing comes from watching the dancers feet, and this smooth flowing rhythm evident in his playing, makes him the dancer's choice.

John has made nine recordings and still plays and records the Metis tunes of his Father and Grandfather. He is a prolific writer and has composed over 200 original tunes.

John has spent his lifetime promoting and preserving the traditions of Metis Fiddle and Dance and old time fiddling. His contribution to the music world encompasses the preservation of these traditions, working with youth at fiddle camps and through private instruction and his efforts to offer a venue where all of this can be seen, appreciated and shared - The Annual John Arcand Fiddle Fest.

The first John Arcand Fiddle Fest was held in 1998 and it has now become one of the major fiddle events in Western Canada. It's held the second weekend in August every year on his acreage just outside of Saskatoon.

John also keeps a very busy performing schedule, is active as a guest artist and judge at fiddle contests and is a founding member of many fiddle organisations and dance groups, including the Emma Lake Fiddle Camp, where he has been an instructor since it's beginning in 1988. He was selected as one of 27 people world wide to represent Western Canada at the Fiddles of the World Conference in Halifax in 1999 and in 2001 he was chosen as a delegate in an Irish/Metis Cultural Exchange, spending 7 days in Dublin and playing for the President of Ireland.

His passions for the preservation of the Metis Traditions, old time fiddling and work with youth were recognised in March of 2003 when he received the National Aboriginal Achievement Award for Arts and Culture. In August of 2003, The Canadian Grand Masters awarded John a Lifetime Achievement Award for his "Outstanding Contribution to Old Time Fiddling." And in May of 2004 he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award in the Inaugural Lieutenant Governor's Arts Awards. Receiving these outstanding recognition's from his peers are definitely the proudest achievements of his musical career.

To see John perform is to see a man serious about his music and in harmony with all that is good. From playing for the Lieutenant governor-general to "jamming" with regular folk – John is happiest and most at home with a fiddle in his hand.

