

Jean-Baptiste “John” Arcand, C.M. (b. 1942)

John Arcand was born on July 19, 1942 at Winter Lake, Saskatchewan. John Arcand, known as the “Master Métis Fiddler” is a soft-spoken man born into a musical family. He was born in 1942, near Debden, Saskatchewan, the son of Emma and Victor Arcand. The family moved to Debden from St. Laurent after 1885. His grandfather, Jean-Baptiste Arcand was born in 1870 at Red River. John’s grandfather Jean Baptiste and great grandfather François Régis Arcand were both participants in the 1885 Northwest Resistance. His grandmother, Marie Helene Boyer was the daughter of William Boyer (b. 1840) and Julienne Bousquet. William Boyer was named as one of Gabriel Dumont’s Captains during the 1885 Resistance.

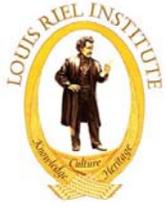
A ninth generation fiddler, John plays a family fiddle from the 1600s that has passed down through 10 generations. His music displays a unique creativeness; he has composed over two hundred and fifty original fiddle tunes.

John Arcand’s music is one of the driving forces behind the revitalization of Métis fiddle music. On his 1998 release, “Tunes of Red River,” he plays tunes from his father and grandfather. John has released seven original recordings. He is a founder and instructor of the Emma Lake Fiddle Camp. He started the Canadian renowned *John Arcand Fiddle Fest* in 1998. John has recently been featured on a Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) video, *John Arcand and his Métis Fiddle* (Saskatoon: 2001). He worked as an adviser and researcher for the GDI four CD production of *Drops of Brandy*, a project that brings together the best Canadian Métis fiddlers (past and present)



He was honoured at the inaugural Saskatchewan Lieutenant-Governor’s Awards when he was recognized for his lifetime achievement as the “Master of the Métis Fiddle.” In 2003, he received a National Aboriginal Achievement Award for Arts and Culture. In May of 2007, John appointed to the Order of Canada was invested in the Order of Canada on April 11, 2008 (photo above). The accompanying biography states:

John Arcand is a master of traditional Métis fiddling and is a musical ambassador for his culture. He has also been a driving force behind the preservation of unrecorded Métis tunes. He has applied his skills as a performer and educator to promoting and popularizing this unique musical heritage. Through endeavours such as the John Arcand Fiddle Fest, and as a representative of Western Canada at the Fiddles of the World Conference, he has inspired other fiddlers to embrace this art form and has helped to bring it to light for both Canada and the world.



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