

Ryan Keplin: Métis Fiddler

Ryan is a member of the Turtle Mountain Band in North Dakota. He plays contemporary and old fashioned Métis Fiddle Music. Fiddling was in his blood, Keplin has said, describing how his grandfather John Keplin was well known in the Belcourt area as a champion fiddler. Unfortunately, the elder Keplin had died in 1962, before his grandson was born. However, his grandfather's legend lived on through prior recordings.



Belcourt, North Dakota native, Ryan Keplin, has established a positive demeanour as a distinctive left hand fiddle player and entertainer, astonishing his audiences wherever he plays. His musical interest began as a young child when he found inspiration in the music of fiddle greats like Andy Dejarlis, Reg Bouvette, and Graham Townsend.

Ryan has played for various festivals, performances, fiddle contests, square dancing competitions, and step dancing competitions in Canada and the United States. His left handed fiddling and unique style attracts the attention of his listeners, which is how he established his stage name “Fiddling Lefty”.

This multi-talented entertainer possesses the ability to play not only the fiddle, but also the acoustic guitar, bass guitar, drums, mandolin and piano. With an experienced musical background, Ryan has shared the stage with well-known entertainers such as Doug Kershaw, Jo-el Sonnier, Eddie Ravin, Reg Bouvette, Darren Lavallee, Clint Dutiaume, John Arcand and Calvin Volrath just to name a few.

Ryan performs all over the USA and Canada at various dances and festival, including the famous *Back to Batoche Festival* in Saskatchewan, *Métisfest* at The International Peace Gardens, *Asham Stompfest* in Manitoba, The *Festival of American Folklife* at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. In 2011, Ryan was inducted to the

International Music Camp Fiddlers Hall of Fame. Ryan has released four CD's Sunshine Records, the first of which was recorded when he was only 18 year's old! These contain traditional tunes as well as many of his own compositions.



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