



For Immediate Release

John Arcand Fiddle Fest Workshops, Competitions, and Concert Line up set for 11th annual event, August 7-10, 2008

July 2, 2008, SASKATOON - The John Arcand Fiddle Fest is all set for its 11th run August 7-10 at Windy Acres on the Pike Lake Highway just 10 minutes southwest of Saskatoon.

John Arcand, the festival's founder and namesake, began fiddling at the age of 6. Now 65, he is widely renowned as "Master of the Métis Fiddle", a recipient of numerous awards for his work promoting fiddling, dancing, and harmony among cultures, and a newly-inducted Member of the Order of Canada.

Arcand has spent the majority of his life dedicated to the passing of cultural traditions, and especially those with fiddling and dancing at their core like his own Métis culture, to younger generations. When he founded the Fiddle Fest in 1998 he was able to increase his impact substantially and now, with the help of dozens of instructors, volunteers, and his wife Vicki who looks after administration for the festival has engaged hundreds of young people in the arts of music and dance and in the traditions of a wide variety of cultures. Thousands more have been touched as audience members in an event where the differences between races and cultures that tend to disrupt harmony in every day life magically melt away, wrapped in a setting where we are all, simply, people with interest and appreciation for the arts, tradition, and life.

At last year's 10th Anniversary celebrations, the festival showcased the impacts of its mentor and protégé values in a special anniversary concert that featured six young fiddlers the festival has helped develop as artists over the years. It was a resounding success and now becomes part of the festival's fabric with a slightly modified version on Saturday night. New to the festival this year is the inaugural John Arcand Lifetime Achievement Award presented for commitment to preserving fiddle music and dance. This year's recipient will be announced just prior to the festival.

Friday, and Saturday evenings also feature concerts and there is a non-denominational gospel hour on Sunday morning following the Fiddles & Flapjacks Breakfast. Old Time Dances follow Friday and Saturday concerts. Workshops consume the daylight hours of Thursday and Friday and competitions do the same on Saturday and Sunday. The festival is home to the Canadian Traditional Red River Jigging Championships and a sanctioned fiddle contest. Ten thousand seven hundred dollars (\$10,700) will be awarded to winners and runners up of all ages in a variety of categories.

Affordable admission includes access to the popular workshop offerings in several styles and levels of fiddling, guitar and piano for fiddle accompaniment, and Red River Jigging for any level of skill. Free-onsite camping, a children's area and concession, concerts, dances, and competitions combine to make this an affordably fun arts and cultural experience that is truly unforgettable and suitable for anyone - from kids to seniors and everyone in between.

A schedule at a glance and list of performers is attached and complete information is available at www.johnarcandfiddlefest.com.

To arrange for an interview, please call Vicki Arcand, Festival Director at 382.0111.

This release was distributed on behalf of the festival by verve2 events, 306.651.1414.