

Literacy This Week



Yukon Literacy
Coalition

We are a society of people dedicated to improving the quality of life of all Yukoners. We do this by building the foundational skills required for lifelong learning; acknowledging that we are all adapting to an everchanging world.

Fiddle Me This



With spring being in the air, it's only right that we think about things that put a little spring in our step. So, tap those toes and do-si-do, let's talk fiddle music! There's no better time to dust off that old fiddle your uncle gave you, rosin up the bow, and scritch scratch screech.

There is something about that new spring light and the smell of melting snow that really evokes the sweet sounds of an old-time fiddle tune. Whether sawing away at an old reel, getting a little weepy to a waltz, or impressing everyone at the spring dance with your fancy footwork to the **Red River Jig**, it's time to embrace your (secret?) love of that music that spans the generational divide.

While the library of great fiddle tunes is almost impossibly vast, here are a few favorites to melt whatever ice around your heart remains after the long winter.

As the ducks begin to return, the Gwich'in classic **Duck Dance** (specifically the **Old Crow Duck Dance**) is a must listen. Give it a spin and try not to dance! Once you've caught your breath, try the **Louis Riel Reel** on for size. It's an excellent example of Métis fiddle style. **Maple Sugar** and **Crooked Stovepipe** are both indispensable entries in the Canadian canon, which must also be given their due.

It's probably time for a waltz now, so find your sweetheart and hold them close for the **Teardrop Waltz**. Not a dry eye in the house after that one!

Finally, we would of course be remiss to not mention the Yukon's very own Fiddler on the Loose, the late great Joe Loutchan. His recording of **Alex and Marine Two Step** is the perfect way to round out our spring fling.



Happy fiddling, folks!

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