

## Patti Kusturok



Patti Kusturok is now officially among this continent's greatest fiddle players.

The Winnipeg musician was inducted Sunday, July 31, 2016 into the North American Fiddlers' Hall of Fame.

Patti is known as "Canada's old-time fiddling sweetheart". She is a three-time Canadian Grand Masters Champion who frequents festivals, performances, music camps and kitchens across North America.

"It is such an incredible honour; it really hasn't sunk in yet even though I've known for a couple of weeks," she said. "I'm still walking on Cloud 9," said Kusturok.

"It's surreal. To see the names that are in there now and to be alongside them, I can't believe it."

Patti Kusturok joins Canadian fiddling icons such as Don Messer, Al Cherny, Ned Landry, Ivan Hicks, Calvin Vollrath, Graham and Eleanor Townsend and Andy Dejarlis in the hall.

Patti said she began playing at age four in the Suzuki Method which involved the accompanying parent learning at the same time. It gave her a solid musical foundation and strong belief in the importance of music for children.

"Music is really important because it brings people together as a family," Patti said. "The kind of music that we play, it's all about getting together with your family and friends in a kitchen or living room and just sharing music. We do that all the time. Wherever we travel, going to fiddling events, there's always a jamming element that happens."

Patti teaches fiddling to 40 students and estimated that she performs 50 to 75 times a year in addition to teaching at workshops and music camps each summer. Patti was inducted into the Manitoba Fiddle Association Wall of Fame in 2010.

The North American Fiddlers' Hall of Fame recognizes "individuals who have made a significant contribution to traditional fiddling in North America," a media release stated. Fiddle associations and fiddle experts across Canada and the United States nominate and vote for deserving candidates. Inductees receive a commemorative plaque.

"It was a fitting honour to be given to Patti. She has devoted her life to the preservation of fiddle music as an iconic art form in Canadian culture," Graham Sheppard, president of the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Association, said in a statement. He attended the induction ceremony.

Congratulations, Patti!