



**BOYD BENJAMIN**



**Boyd Benjamin** came to the fiddle naturally, an extension of his roots in Old Crow, Yukon. “My grandfather – Peter Benjamin was a fiddler, my uncle Allan Benjamin is a fiddler. Fiddling is in my blood already, I see myself continuing to pass it on.”

Boyd’s musical history includes studies in Yukon, Alberta and B.C. By grade 6, he was playing guitar and singing in local coffee shops around B.C. Music educators recognized his natural talent and led him to learn trombone and oboe along with music theory and violin. He credits this formal training and his heritage for imprinting in him the capacity for creating music that captivates his listeners.

Together with his family, Boyd spent his summers in Old Crow. At the end of one summer, 14 year old Boyd discovered the fiddle, believing this to be his way of reconnecting with his home. The primarily self-taught fiddler finds the instrument gives him hope.

Boyd watched planes take off and land on a runway visible from the bedroom window of his home in Old Crow, instilling in him a desire to fly. Today he has his pilot and helicopter licenses, works in the North, and at a young age is already living this dream.

His dream of a life with music as well as an aviation career spurred Boyd Benjamin on to become both a performer and a pilot, achieving a Special Youth Award at the 2008 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards for the goals he has reached to date and his vision for the future.