

## NATIVE VOICE

*The Canadian Journal of Native Studies* is deeply committed to the promotion and preservation of Aboriginal languages in Canada. As part of that end, in each issue of the journal we intend to publish short original creative work written in any one of Canada's First languages. Thank you. Lorraine Mayer, Editor, *The Canadian Journal of Native Studies*.

### Steven DeMontigny

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I was born; the Son of William DeMontigny (A.K.A – Bill or Chii-Dii) and Verna DeMontigny (Fleury), in Russell Manitoba, 4th of the 3 brothers and 1 sister, 5th on my fathers side including my half sister. I am a descendant from Ste. Madeleine – a Manitoba Metis Community – which is a big part of many descendants lives today. I grew up primarily living in two communities, Brandon Manitoba and a place know to us as “Fouilliards Corner” or “Da-la-Qwaay” or “The Corner”. The Corner is across the river from where Ste Madeleine is. Some Metis relocated to The Corner after the families were displaced from Ste Madeleine, to make cattle pastures. This is where my journey began.

At 48, I have been influenced by many artists from authors to musicians, but mostly from the people in my community. I have written many pieces and share them sometimes as a way to express, “The Way I See It”. At 27 I tried the fiddle. I have been influenced by many people, but have been self taught for much of the way. I believe fiddle music exhumes you and musicians are at its mercy.....

I once was invited and visited a University Classroom to play fiddle. The professor was a Metis Author of a book called “Cries from a Metis heart”. She wrote about the first tune I composed and shared – an Ode to my community - “Ode to Ste Madeleine”. The poem she wrote was called “The Fiddlemen”.

So today I am; The Fiddleman from Ste Madeleine, sharing my poem “The Fiddler”. “The Fiddler” poem is translated into Michif-Cree, the language of my Ste Madeleine community.

## Li Zhweer di Vyayloon

Kihpaha tii zyeu

Yootena toon keur  
Tadbaen kapeten la plaas kamaachitayaan

Taandee li vyayloon apiw aa li larshet  
Lii zhoweer di vyayloon si kitimaakemowin ayawaak  
Shappo lii ahoo pi aan baa

Aan Concerto kema Orchestra iteyhamik ooschi pashiteheywin naam  
Lii zhoweer di vyayloon shaywetitaawahk blasphematorie kishchi ke-  
kwee  
Mekwaat lii violinist ayawaak disoor Bach's mishchiminamowin

Pi daan li graan nipwaakawin kashkitamowin  
Li nakatamowewin ooschi Beethoven  
Taanshi ka kiishi- ooshitacik historie

Aen Violiniste, aen zhoweer di vyayloon, awaana tapwee kishkaytahk  
Li difference  
Aashtew oota daan li poeme

Akoshi kipaha tii zyeu  
Pi yootena toon keur  
Tadbaen kapeten la plaas kamaachitayaan

Taandee li vyayloon apiw aa li larshet  
Pi li zhoweer di vyayloon metawe-naaniwun  
Shappo lii ahoo pi aan baa