

## NOTES FROM THE ON-STAGE MUSICIAN – Alex Lamoureux

Along with the fiddle, I also play several percussion instruments in the play such as drums and rattles, an accordion, a jaw harp, various kinds of flutes, as well as both my voice (whistling) and my feet. I wear special shoes and use a specially made floorboard to make rhythms with my feet while I am playing the fiddle. This traditional footwork is unique to the Métis style of fiddling. The drums and rattles I use are important because of First Nations traditions, and the accordion is just a great all-round portable orchestra.



I control the “looper” and the volume of the sound system that I use with foot pedals. Sometimes, certain sounds are pre-recorded, but all sounds were created with the instruments you see on stage.

Sometimes different instruments are associated with theme music for different characters. The fiddle kind of goes with the horse, for example, while the flute is used for the mother’s spirit and to suggest the traditional way of life. The accordion is used for the dad, and his life in the outside world to suggest the pressures he has to deal with.

That’s what makes playing music for this show so exciting and why live music was used instead of recorded music. There was a need for a sense of immediacy that is integrally linked to the dramatic action of the story. Music provides a rhythm and a pace that complements the action, captures the mood and atmosphere of different moments, and enhances the emotional tone of different scenes as they are performed by the actors.

Visit [www.alexlamoureux.com](http://www.alexlamoureux.com) to hear the music of Métis fiddle player Alex Lamoureux.