

Nomination for a King

By Richard Awid

In 1994, Canada lost one of its best musicians when Ameen *King* Ganam passed away. He was known across the country as the “King of the Fiddle”. Ameen was the second son born to Lebanese immigrant Sied Ameen Ganam Kadri and his wife Chelsea. In later years “King” would become the star of the CBC television program *Country Hoedown*. Due to his musical talent it was not long before he was nominated to the Country Music Hall of Honour. One of the nominators was Joe Shoctor (well known Jewish lawyer, entrepreneur, founder of the Citadel Theatre, Officer of the Order of Canada) who wrote:



Ahmed “King” Ganam

“As a native Albertan and long-time Edmontonian, I remember with great pride the career and music of Ameen “King” Ganam whose talents as a songwriter, composer and musician were enjoyed by millions of Canadians throughout several decades. While King Ganam’s fame evolved largely around his fiddle, he was also deeply involved in his own community as a teacher, writer and composer.”

Joe Shoctor also said that Ameen had received the title “King” following his winning a world fiddle competition in Vancouver, B.C. in the early 1950’s. He concluded his nomination with, “While Ameen’s recognition as a western entertainer in the Hall of Honour should be obvious to all who followed his career during the 1940’s, 1950’s and 1960’s, I am nevertheless pleased and honoured to add my voice to those who wish to see such recognition acknowledged to this great individual.”