

Proclamation



Charles Zimmermann

Whereas: The chorded zither seemed fated to join a long list of obscure variants of its parent instrument. Indeed today it remains a relative unknown in the old world of its birth, and,

Whereas: Charles F. Zimmermann recognized the potential of the instrument to be played, and to educate. He brought his vision to a new world, ripe with possibility and opportunity, and infused that vision with his energy and enterprise, and,

Whereas: Charles F. Zimmermann's early recognition of the autoharp's special qualities as an educational tool for teaching music has led to its omnipresence in children's classrooms everywhere, and,

Whereas: Charles F. Zimmermann may not have been the first to conceive the instrument's essential design, but there can be no doubt of his responsibility for its widespread availability, popularity, and acceptance, nor of his authorship of the very name "Autoharp" it wears to this day, and,

Whereas: Charles F. Zimmermann's insight to the autoharp's potential as an instrument for the masses led directly to its inclusion as an essential element of the American folk tradition and continuing music heritage,

Therefore, let it be resolved that Charles F. Zimmermann be inducted with highest commendations as the 1998 posthumous member of The Autoharp Hall of Fame.

So it is proclaimed on this, the Fourth Day of July in the year Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-Eight.