

# Proclamation



## Bill Clifton

Whereas; Bill Clifton has been professionally active with guitar and autoharp for over seven decades. His travels worldwide in the 1960s and 1970s exposed many young musicians to the autoharp, especially so in the United Kingdom, with recordings and recitals of old time and bluegrass music, many of which featured the autoharp as both a rhythm and lead instrument. And,

Whereas; Bill Clifton remains a living link with the original Carter family of Virginia, whose recordings and concerts ensured the survival of the autoharp in country music. Bill's melodic style of playing the instrument was inspired by Maybelle Carter's music and his performances of their songs always gave prominence to the instrument. And,

Whereas; His commitment to the autoharp resulted in his 1981 album "Autoharp Centennial Celebration," commemorating the instrument's century of existence, and recognizing its place in music history. And,

Whereas; Although the autoharp is not a regular feature of the standard instrumental line-up in bluegrass music, Bill's use of the instrument with major bluegrass luminaries and at bluegrass festivals has ensured that the autoharp has maintained an accepted context and appreciated presence in live music gatherings and recording sessions which feature old time and bluegrass. And,

Whereas; Bill Clifton has always featured the autoharp in his solo concerts and shared information about it with his audiences,

Therefore; Let it be resolved that Bill Clifton be inducted with highest commendations as the 2023 contemporary member of The Autoharp Hall of Fame.

So, it is proclaimed on this, the 5th of June in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Three. The Autoharp Hall of Fame is sponsored by the Mountain Laurel Autoharp Gathering.