

# Proclamation



## Joseph Valentich

- Whereas:** In 1974, autoharpists eager to convert chromatic autoharps to diatonic installed ungainly electric-bass-guitar and bandura strings, etc., to extend the autoharp's bass range below Great *f*, for lack of an autoharp string thicker than .079 gauge. And,
- Whereas:** Joseph Valentich, a musician of the tamburitza and string maker for the same, advertised "All types of metal strings" in the November 1984 issue of "frets" magazine. And,
- Whereas:** Of all eleven custom string makers listed in "frets" who autoharpist Charles Whitmer contacted about making a thicker, deeper autoharp string, only Joseph Valentich responded. And,
- Whereas:** From November 1984 through June 1986, Joseph Valentich applied his string making and engineering expertise to craft a copper-wound, .120-gauge "JVL" autoharp string, first installed by luthier George Orthey on Liberty Autoharp Number 75 on Christmas Day 1986, extending the GDA diatonic autoharp's bass range down to Great *F*. And,
- Whereas:** Joseph Valentich then collaborated with George Orthey to design complementary "JVM" (.102 gauge) and "JVS" (gauge unknown) autoharp strings. And,
- Whereas:** Upon retiring from string making in 2000, Joseph Valentich sold his autoharp-dedicated string machine to luthier Tom Gladmark, freeing the autoharp's bass range to deepen at will forever, for the benefit of the autoharp, its players and fans.
- Therefore:** Let it be resolved that Joseph Valentich be inducted with highest commendations as the 2023 posthumous member of The Autoharp Hall of Fame.
- So it is proclaimed on this, the 8th day of June in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.