

Proclamation



Herman Hermanson

(August 1859 - November 10, 1899)

- Whereas Herman Hermanson, a gifted violinist, Tin Pan Alley composer/arranger and New York City orchestra leader, entered employment with autoharp manufacturer The C. F. Zimmermann Company circa July 1, 1893 to transpose and copyright autoharp music, manage the New York Autoharp Club (38 East 19th Street, New York City), teach autoharp and lead autoharp concerts for the public's enjoyment, in an effort to "elevate the autoharp...above any association it might have had with toys." And,
- Whereas: From 1893 to 1897, Herman Hermanson rendered in Charles F. Zimmermann's Autoharp Figure Music System at least 112 songs, hymns and instrumentals (including the latest Tin Pan Alley hits); some duets; 14 quartets and original compositions, raising the autoharp's status to that of a viable musical instrument. And,
- Whereas: By 1895, Herman Hermanson's autoharp arrangements were being performed by the glee clubs of Columbia College, Amherst College, Williams College, Princeton College and the University of Pennsylvania. And,
- Whereas: In his book, "Favorite Melodies for the Parlor Grand Autoharp" (1895), Herman Hermanson introduced the "after-beat" (now called "brush" and "fill"), a technique that remains an integral part of autoharp playing today. And,
- Whereas: Herman Hermanson updated the Autoharp Style No. 6 instruction book (1896), and prepared instruction books for new Style Numbers 72 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 71 (1897). And,
- Whereas: Herman Hermanson produced a six-volume series of autoharp solos with autoharpist Aldis Gery (1896), and composed autoharp accompaniments for the five-volume "Fin de Siècle Collection of Popular Music for Mandolin, Two Mandolins, Flute & Violin" by celebrated Mexican violinist, Genaro Saldierna (1896). And,
- Whereas: Herman Hermanson, a proficient Parlor Grand and Concert Grand autoharpist, joined autoharpists Aldis Gery and Louis Melcher to perform in trio with conductor Victor Herbert and Gilmore's Band at New York City's Academy of Music on October 21, 1894.
- Therefore: Let it be resolved that Herman Hermanson be inducted with highest commendations as the 2025 posthumous member of The Autoharp Hall of Fame.
- So it is proclaimed on this, the Fifth day of June in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.