

# Proclamation



## Rudolf Dolge

(December 13, 1869 – March 12, 1950)

- Whereas:** On January 1, 1893, Rudolf Dolge, age 23, became junior partner of his father's firm, Alfred Dolge & Son, and Manager of the C. F. Zimmermann Company (the autoharp concern recently removed from Philadelphia to Dolgeville, New York), to oversee autoharp manufacture, development, sales, distribution, and advertising, And,
- Whereas:** Rudolf Dolge crisscrossed the United States and Canada to meet with jobbers and dealers, procuring large orders of 2,000, 5,000, and up to 8,000 autoharps, thus increasing factory output from 2,000 to 3,000 autoharps a week, And,
- Whereas:** Rudolf Dolge created the New York Autoharp Club in 1894 to propagate musical excellence via classes and recitals in its own clubhouse at 38 East Nineteenth Street, New York City, And,
- Whereas:** Rudolf Dolge collaborated with autoharpists and craftsmen under his employ to design and patent the Concert Grand autoharp plus four new autoharp styles, while improving thumb and finger-pick designs, all to transform the autoharp from "a merely automatic instrument" to one that "must take rank with musical products of the day," while encouraging aspiring autoharp virtuosos to "work untiringly" on perfecting their musicianship, And,
- Whereas:** Rudolf Dolge sojourned to London, Dresden, and Moscow in July 1894 to establish autoharp agents who then sent the autoharp throughout Great Britain, central Europe, Scandinavia, Russia, Persia, India, Australia, Africa, Colombia, Bucatan, Cuba, and the West Indies, thus making the autoharp "one of the world's most popular stringed instruments," And,
- Whereas:** Rudolf Dolge gave his all to the autoharp over four years' time, securing its legacy and everyone's musical satisfaction for years to come.

Therefore, let it be resolved that Rudolf Dolge be inducted with highest commendations as the 2026 posthumous member of The Autoharp Hall of Fame

So it is proclaimed on this, the Fourth day of June in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.