

Proclamation



Alfred Dolge

Whereas: Alfred Dolge was an industrious, imaginative man with roots in German instrument making, as were his predecessors Karl August Gütter and Charles Zimmermann, and

Whereas: After purchasing the autoharp from Charles Zimmermann in eighteen ninety-two, Dolge moved the machinery and eighty employees of the Zimmermann Company to Dolgeville, New York, and,

Whereas: Several design changes of the autoharp were made and patented by the Dolge Company, one of these being the Concert Grand Autoharp, and,

Whereas: Dolge and his son, Rudolph, entered into a national distribution system of the autoharp through door-to-door sales, through major music stores, and through the Sears and Roebuck catalog. History tells us they manufactured several thousand autoharps per month, and,

Whereas: Although unfortunate business blunders caused the demise of Alfred Dolge and Son before the turn of the century, the company commercialized and popularized the autoharp extensively, both nationally and internationally,

Therefore, let it be resolved that Alfred Dolge be inducted with highest commendations as the 2002 posthumous member of The Autoharp Hall of Fame.

So it is proclaimed on this, the Twenty-Ninth Day of June in the year Two Thousand and Two.