

Proclamation



Karl August Gütter

Whereas: In the region of Saxony in Eastern Germany in the early 1880s, an instrument was designed, patented, and manufactured under the name of “Volkszither,” and,

Whereas: This instrument, commonly known in Germany as the akkord zither (or chord zither), was later to be manufactured in the United States by Charles F. Zimmermann under the name of “Autoharp,” and,

Whereas: The chord zither, or autoharp as we know it today, was invented by Karl August Gütter (July 22, 1823 - September 21, 1900) of Markneukirchen, Germany, and,

Whereas: Without this instrument, untold millions would have been deprived of the joys of making music, and,

Whereas: Karl August Gütter’s instrument has been the common bond for an ever-growing community of fervent autoharp enthusiasts,

Therefore, let it be resolved that Karl August Gütter be inducted with highest commendations as the 1997 posthumous member of The Autoharp Hall of Fame.

So it is proclaimed on this, the Fifth Day of July in the year Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-Seven.