

# Proclamation



## Keith Young

Whereas:

Keith Young was an outstanding luthier who made over 150 custom maple, walnut, and cherry autoharps which were played and endorsed by amateur and professional musicians alike, including Becky Blackley, Bonnie Phipps, Eileen Roys, and Neal Walters, all of whom admired his craftsmanship, And;

Whereas:

He made autoharps incorporating several custom design features, over 1000 mountain dulcimers, MacArthur harps, fretless banjos, limberjacks, and a few replicas of historic instruments known as "early Virginia" dulcimers. Keith also began to make raffeles, traditional Austrian instruments in the zither family, And;

Whereas:

He specialized in restoring old or damaged instruments including thirteen autoharps belonging to Eileen Roys which were damaged after a fire at her home/museum, And;

Whereas:

He founded and managed the well-known Mill Run Dulcimer Band for over 35 years playing bass, dulcimer, and autoharp. The band appeared at the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institute, the annual Earth Day Celebration on the Mall in Washington, D.C., the Augusta Heritage Arts program, and at regional and national music festivals up and down the East Coast. The band also produced 11 popular recordings featuring the autoharp And;

Whereas:

He organized dulcimer and autoharp group lesson workshops two times a year for nearly 30 years, And;

Whereas:

He was given a Keith Young Tribute Day, presented by Washington radio personality, Mary Cliff, in 2000 in recognition of his many contributions to the cultural fabric of Fairfax County, And;

Whereas:

He founded the Greater Washington Dulcimer Disorganization and was a founding member of the Capital Harpers autoharp club in Washington, D.C., one of the oldest autoharp clubs in the country, And;

Whereas:

He was a mainstay at local jams and other music events, enthusiastic about meeting other musicians, encouraging to newcomers, and always open to learning new songs and instruments himself.

Therefore, let it be resolved that Keith Young be inducted with highest commendations as the 2015 Posthumous Member of The Autoharp Hall of Fame.

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

The Autoharp Hall of Fame is sponsored by the Mountain Laurel Autoharp Gathering