

Proclamation



Robin Sears (R. S. Tracy)

June 24, 1878 - December 29, 1943

- Whereas: Robin Sears Tracy likely encountered the autoharp while enrolled briefly at the Kansas State Normal School in Emporia, February-May 1895. And,
- Whereas: In January 1898, Robin Sears Tracy, now "R. S. Tracy, expert autoharp soloist" at age 19, was hired by The C. F. Zimmermann Company in Dolgeville, New York. And,
- Whereas: Circa 1899-1900, R. S. Tracy through the Zimmermann Autoharp Company wrote his *Autoharp Instructor* books for Styles 71, 2³/₄, 72⁷/₈, and 73, presenting melody-playing techniques still in use by autoharpists around the world today. And,
- Whereas: By 1901, R. S. Tracy published Volume 1 of his 13-volume *20th Century Standard Collection of Concert Solos for the Zimmermann Autoharp* (Style No. 73). And,
- Whereas: R. S. Tracy went to California in October 1901 to work for J. B. Brown Music in Los Angeles, where he sold autoharps, performed recitals, and became known as "America's foremost Autoharp specialist." And,
- Whereas: R. S. Tracy played the autoharp at a political rally on October 24, 1902 promoting George C. Pardee, soon-to-be Governor-Elect of California, before returning to the eastern United States to concertize and play the autoharp at the temperance tent meetings conducted by his father, Nathan Wheeler Tracy. And,
- Whereas: R. S. Tracy became "Autoharp Specialist and Music Director" for the Zimmermann Autoharp Company, The Phonoharp Company, International Music Corporation, and Oscar Schmidt-International. And,
- Whereas: R. S. Tracy copyrighted and self-published his last book, *10 Studio Lessons and 57 Favorite Melodies for Autoharp No. 73*, in 1938.
- Therefore: Let it be resolved that Robin Sears Tracy be inducted with highest commendations as the 2024 posthumous member of The Autoharp Hall of Fame.
- So it is proclaimed on this, the 6th day of June in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.