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# The International Magazine Dedicated to the Autoharp Enthusiast

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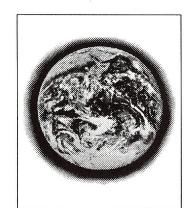
# Volume Nine, Number Two Winter 1997



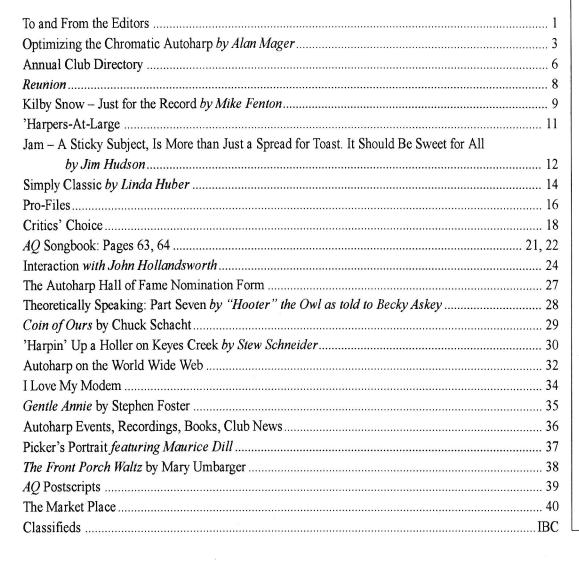
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Explore World Wide Web sites of interest to the autoharp enthusiast





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Fuey Herring



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# Dear Readers:

This time last year, we were up to our waists in snow. A *lot* of snow! This year, there're just a couple of inches on the ground. We have much to be thankful for!

By the time you receive this issue, Ivan will be on his way south for his annual concert tour, and Mary Lou and George will be visiting friends on the Peace River in Punta Gorda, Florida. Both trips will be brief since the planning sessions for the '97 Mountain Laurel Autoharp Gathering and the next issue of AQ are breathing down our necks.

You may notice a slight change in the design of this issue. With Ivan's eyesight getting close to that of a blind skink, he has insisted that the typeface be larger. (Many have contended that he doesn't read anyway. He swears he can, but chooses not to.)

One of the pleasures of this job is receiving the many letters and photographs from our readers. Unfortunately, it is impossible to print them all. (We wish we could.) If you don't see your letter on these pages, do not despair. We read them all. Regarding the photos; black and white are the best for reproduction. However, our printer does wonders with the color photos. Just remember, whether black and white or color, to make sure they have good contrast. A good way to check this is to look at the photo with squinted eyes. If you can still see contrast between the elements in the photo, it will probably reproduce well. So, keep those letters and photos coming; we enjoy every one.

You may not think so now, but spring is approaching very quickly and the ballots for the Autoharp Hall of Fame are due by May 1st. This is the last chance you will have to vote before the panel convenes to consider your nominations. If you've voted in the past and your nominee(s) have not been honored, don't give up. It is very important to include the reason(s) why you think your nominees should be voted into the Hall of Fame. Now's the time to fill out your ballots!

Editors

Dear Editors:

AUSTRALIAN 'HARPER

AQ keeps me in touch and the ideas flowing. Thank you.

Enclosed is a flyer for "our" festival... the Woodford Folk Festival. I'm off to a gathering of players at Imbel, a small country community a few hours drive north of Brisbane... Ken Pearlman was out here for it last year. For the last two years, I have opened the Saturday night concert with my 'harp. Not many people here have heard one used as a solo instrument.

My 'harp was made by my friend, Doug Eaton. I play one of his guitars, and he and I are in the middle of "The Great Autoharp Project." The result should get its first airing this weekend. So far it's a great looking instrument. We believe it is the only handmade 'harp to be built in Australia!

Evan Mathiason

Look for Roz Brown, Evan! He'll be playing his autoharps at four festivals in Australia this year – one in January (Geelong), and three in March. Your Woodford Festival looks very large, diversified, popular, and exciting! We found it on the WWW. Keep up the good work! – And let us know how you like your new 'harp!

Editors

SHE'S IN LOVE!

Please find my check for a subscription to AQ. I can hardly wait for the first issue to arrive! Unlike many publications, I devoured a borrowed issue – from cover to cover. Especially the ads! Where else am I going to get this kind of information?

I've fallen in love with the autoharp. Its beauty is that it "meets you where you are," and invites you to grow! I look forward to our monthly Angel Strings Club meeting at Linda Huber's house, and am privileged to live around the corner from her. She's infected me with her love for the 'harp, sharing her insight and experience with me.

Thank you very much for providing a quality publication.

Karla Armstrong

FACKELDEY MEETS FRANKENHARP

In reference to the article, "Bringing the 37th String Back to Life" in the last issue of AQ: Maybe you oughta caution people that a 3/16" drill bit does not necessarily drill the right diameter hole for the tuning pin. It depends on the source of your tuning pin – sizes vary slightly. Tuning pins from Elderly fit better in an 11/64" hole. I would suggest trying to match the bit and the pin on a piece of scrap before drilling into the 'harp.

Mark Fackeldey

Thank you for the tip, Mark. Dr. Frankenharp tells us that American-made pins may vary substantially in size, even within one batch. Also, for the standard-sized zither tuning pin, (.198 size), he uses a slightly undersized bit to insure a very tight pin fit. 3/16" drill bit (.187 size) is standard for the standard tuning pins. The standard-sized pins (Japanese-made) are carried by American Piano Supply Company and Schaff Piano Supply, and can be ordered by anyone who uses them in his work—autoharp, hammered dulcimer, zither, bowed psaltery, and even door chime builders.

Editors

CLASSICAL ASK

I enjoyed Linda Huber's contribution in the last issue of AQ. I am not a good musician, but think I would work it out if she'd tab Pachelbel's Canon in the key of A. Thank you for your consideration.

Johnny Gay

We talked to Linda, and she has been most obliging, Johnny! See page 14 for your request. However, Linda has changed your key of A to the key of D.

Editors

FEELINGS

Saturday evening in Tulsa, I used my 'harp to accompany a short ballad, *The Educated Feller and the Z-Bar Dun*, as part of my set of cowboy stories at a big storytelling concert. We were fortunate to



have the services of two excellent sign language interpreters, who have been signing for our Tulsa concerts regularly enough that we have actually begun to get deaf people in the audience. (I understand from other locales that deaf people are shy about coming out to events, and presenters need to work quite a while to establish trust and reliability.) Plus, these two signers have a following of their own in Tulsa's deaf community, and with good reason. They love stories, and are so quick and fluent that they interpreted my song without having heard it before.

Afterwards, one of the deaf women dragged a signer over to me and exclaimed that she had been able to *feel* the low notes from my 'harp – revealing to her for the first time why people might get all excited about music. I ran and got the 'harp, locked it into G so it would sound good to the rest of us, and put it in her arms. She strummed away with an ecstatic expression. "I can feel it in my heart," she said.

Fran Stallings

SAD?

I enjoyed the Oscar Schmidt story very much. – What a sad ending.

Barbara Guernsev

Yes, Barbara. For the Petersons, the ending was a sad one. But for the autoharp community, their story is a gift of true history. The struggles Glen went through bringing our instrument out of the 19th Century into the present is something we should remember and be grateful for. We need more people like him today.

Editors

# A WINNER!

The photo on the cover of the fall issue of AQ is great. I played a little game of "Where's Waldo" to see how many people I could recognize. It is one of my dreams to be able to come to the Mountain Laurel Gathering!

Jo Ann Smith

Thank you, Jo Ann. That has been our most talked about cover since we began. We have received so many compliments about this photograph that we just might make it an annual cover event! Thank you!

**Editors** 

MAGIC MOMENTS

This past fall I heard a beautiful voice

singing a lovely song... at a resort near my home. I learned that the singer was Carmen Cleary, a professional musician from Vancouver, Canada. Her music was mostly folk songs, and she asked if we'd care to join in. I got my homemade Mountain Laurel Autoharp (on its third remake), my friends brought their fiddles, guitars, and we backed her up. In no time we had an audience of friends having a terrific time. I even played a few autoharp solos, and nobody threw anything! It was the most musical fun I've had in at least thirty years. Moments like this are rare, and all the sweeter for it.

Ray Sipes

# ALL I WANTED FOR CHRISTMAS

Last year's Mountain Laurel Gathering was such a wonderful experience for me! When I was asked what I wanted for Christmas this year, I just kept saying over and over again – "I want to go back to the Gathering!"

My folks not only bought me my ticket, but they're also sporting part of my air fare! I thank God for such loving parents – and I'm so looking forward to this summer!

Marti Knauer

We're looking forward to the Gathering, too, Marti. Although it's February, the gears here are beginning to grind with purpose!

**Editors** 

# STRINGS & SPRINGS

Thought I'd send this picture to kind of show you what I have been doing with all those strings and springs I've been getting from you.

The 'harps are all made from different combinations of wood. They're slightly larger than Oscar Schmidt's 'harps, and have a few more strings. The chord bars are fashioned to a different shape and style.

Lou Stump

Glad to hear from you, Lou! Thanks for the picture!

Editors



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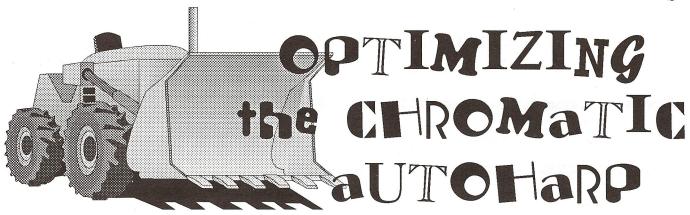
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by Alan Mager

don't know exactly when it happened, but sometime a few years back I suddenly realized how to set up a chromatic autoharp so that all the chords on it sounded good. It's not as if this were divine revelation. The idea was hatched after years of monkeying around with chromatic 'harps, always trying to make them sound better.

# The Problem

As every autoharp player has discovered, certain chords on "standard" chromatic 'harps sound awful. On Oscar Schmidts and ChromAharps fresh from the factory, the "flat" chords, such as  $B^{\flat}$ ,  $E^{\flat}$ ,  $A^{\flat}$ , and their respective sevenths make the sweet little autoharp sound nastier than a bagpipe.

For a long time, I tinkered with different tunings, tried repositioning the chord bars to avoid harmonics, and did other things to try to make these chords sound better. Nothing really worked. Then the simple truth hit me: The reason these chords sound bad is because they have few, if any, strings sounding in the lower third of the 'harp. Check it out and you'll see what I mean. The best sounding chords have a nice, full bass with several strings ringing in the low end. The horrible sounding chords have virtually nothing going on in the bass.

This problem exists because the lower ten strings encompass a range of about an octave and a half, or about 18 notes on the chromatic scale. Accordingly, about eight notes have to be left out. That's nearly half of what "should" be there. The result is that no given string schedule can provide a suitable bass for all chords.

# The Solution

Once I understood the problem, the

solution became obvious: To get good sounding "flat" chords, I would have to have a second chromatic autoharp that had more of the notes contained in those chords in the bass.

I played with this concept for some time and finally came up with a system that works for me. I now work with two 21-chord chromatic autoharps. Each can play only in four major keys. One has the keys of Bb, F, C and G, and the other plays in G, D, A and E. Figure 1 shows 36-string and 37-string schedules for these two setups, and Figure 2 shows the chord selection for each 'harp. If you examine the notes available in the bass portion of the 'harp, you will see that all major and most minor chords have a reasonable number of bass notes present.

For the Bb-F-C-G 'harp, F seems to be the optimum key. It clearly sounds the best, and the string schedule is most in line with the F scale. This is true for the key of D on the G-D-A-E 'harp. The keys of Bb and C are good, solid-sounding keys on the F 'harp as are the keys of G and A on the D 'harp. The key of G on the F 'harp and the key of E on the D 'harp are a little weak but still quite serviceable. I find it quite convenient having the key of G on both 'harps, because it is the key perhaps most frequently called for in jam sessions.

# Fine Tuning the Solution

It isn't enough just to have an ample selection of bass notes available for each chord. You must be selective in which notes are used. Just because something is possible doesn't mean that it's desirable. If you cut notches in your felts for all bass notes available in all chords, you will end up with some bad-sounding chords. Here

are my guidelines for notching felts in the bass portion of the 'harp:

- 1. The lowest note that sounds in any chord should be a 1st or 5th, never a 3rd or 7th. For example, in a C7 chord (which contains the notes C, E, G, Bb), the lowest string sounding should be C (the first note of the scale of C) or G (the 5th). If you allow E (the 3rd) or Bb (the flatted 7th) to be the lowest note, the chord will sound as if it has a wrong note in it. (Trust me or try it yourself.) I make an exception to this rule when cutting felts for diminished 7th and augmented chords. These chords are composed of equal intervals and really have no beginning or end, so it doesn't, matter which note sounds at the bottom.
- 2. Don't cut a notch for a 3rd or a 7th that occurs in the first 6 or 8 strings even if there is a 1st or 5th below it. To my ear, this just sets up too much vibration in the bottom end of the 'harp and creates an unpleasant "muddy" sound.
- 3. In the first 6 or 8 strings, don't cut notches for two strings that are adjacent to each other, even if they're a 1st and a 5th. Again this just muddies up the sound.

# Preferences

If this system of using two 4-key chromatic 'harps makes sense to you, do a little thinking about your personal playing preferences. You may opt for a chord selection that's a little different from mine. Of course, what you'll surely find is that there are always trade-offs and you can never come up with the totally perfect setup. We certainly couldn't achieve perfection with the 7-key "standard" Oscar Schmidt 'harp, and I can't get there even with a 4-key 'harp. Here are some of my reasons why:

1. Sevenths. In my opinion, you can never have enough 7ths on a chromatic

# STRING SCHEDULES FOR 4-KEY CHROMATIC AUTOHARPS

B♭-F-C-G			G-D-A-E				
36 Strings		37 Strings		36 Strings		37 Strings	
String No.	***************************************	String No.	Note	String No.	Note	String No	
				Sung 190.			
1	F	1	F	1	G	1	G
2	G	2	G	2	A	2	A
3	A♯	3	A♯	3	B	3	B
4	C	4	C	4	C	4	C
5	D	5	D	5	D	5	D
6	E	6	D#	6	E	6	E
7	F	7	E	7	F#	7	F
8	G	8	F	8	G	8	G
9	A	9	G	9	A	9	A
10	A#	10	A	10	B	10	B
11	B	11	A#	11	C	11	C
12	C	12	B	12	C#	12	C#
13	C#	13	C	13	D	13	D
14	D	14	C#	14	D#	14	D#
15	D#	15	D	15	E	15	E E
16	E E	16	D#	16	F	16	F F
17	F F	17	E	17	F#	17	
18	F#	18	F	18	G G	18	F# G
19	G	19	F#	19	G	18	G
20	G♯	20	G F#	20	A	20	A
21	A A	21	G	20	A A#	20	A A#
21	A A♯	22	A	21 22	B	21 22	B
	B A				C		
23	C	23 24	A♯	23		23	C
24	C#	25	B C	24 25	C# D	24 25	C#
25			1-11				D
26	D	26	C#	26	D#	26	D#
27	D#	27	D	27	E	27	E
28	E	28	D#	28	F	28	F
29	F	29	E	29	F#	29	F#
30	F#	30	F	30	G	30	G
31	G	31	F#	31	G#	31	G#
32	G#	32	G	32	A	32	A
33	A	33	G#	33	A♯	33	A#
34	A#	34	A	34	В	34	В
35	В	35	A#	35	C	35	C
36	С	36	В	36	D	36	C#
		37	С	20 10 10		37	D

Editors' note: Read more about this concept with diatonic and chromatic tunings in "Same Old Ball Game with a New 'Mi'" (Vol. VI, # 3) which includes 10 diatonic tunings; and "The Mountain Laurel Autoharp" (how to build your own autoharp plans), Vol. IV, #1 (the last installment of a four-part series).

autoharp, but I've settled for the seven most useful ones and left it at that.

2. Diminished Sevenths. Gotta have 'em! I can't imagine a chromatic autoharp without them. Of course, they take up space so something else has to go.

3. Minors. This is where my setups suffer the most. I use minors less than majors, 7ths, and diminished 7ths, so when something has to go for lack of space on my 'harps, its going to be minors. You'll notice that on the Bb-F-C-G 'harp I don't have the B minor for the key of G, and on the G-D-A-E 'harp, the G# minor for the key of E is missing. I've got the full complement of minors for the key of G on the G-D-A-E 'harp, so I do make up some lost ground there. If you play a lot of music in minor keys, or just like spicing up your arrangements with minor chords, you may want to have more minor chords and give up something else.

4. Augmenteds. I wouldn't really classify augmented chords as "musthave" items, but I got hooked on them several years ago in a Mike Fenton workshop and I find them useful enough to keep one on each of my chromatic 'harps. (There are four different augmented chords, but I can't justify giving up three other chords to get them all.) On the Bb-F-C-G 'harp I gave up D major in favor of F augmented  $(F\times)$ , and on the G-D-A-E 'harp I replaced B major with Dx. Now this somewhat limits my ability to play in G and E on those two 'harps respectively, but I decided it was more important to have the augmented chords. As I said before, there are always trade-offs.

# Finally

Be careful of stretching things so far that you end up revisiting the original problem. If you were to keep the D and B major chords that I replaced with the augmenteds, you'd quickly discover that you could play in the key of D on the B\(^1\)-F-C-G 'harp and in B on the other one. If you do this, you're heading back toward the "standard" chromatic setup and its inherent problems that we're trying to avoid.

Don't go there! These two keys will sound weak, and you'll begin to wonder why we've come this far only to slip back. Besides, when was the last time anyone in a jam session called for the key of B? ❖

# **CHORD SELECTION FOR 4-KEY** CHROMATIC AUTOHARPS

	B♭-F-C	C-G	G-D-A-E			
Majors:	E♭ B♭ F C G	(D#, G, A#) (A#, D, F) (F, A, C) (C, E, G) (G, B, D)	Majors:	C G D A E	(C, E, G) (G, B, D) (D, F#, A) (A, C#, E) (E, G#, B)	
Minors:	Cm Gm Dm Am Em	(C, D#, G) (G, A#, D) (D, F, A) (A, C, E) (E, G, B)	Minors:	Am Em Bm F#m C#m	(A, C, E) (E, G, B) (B, D, F#) (F#, A, C#) (C#, E, G#)	
Sevenths:	B\7 F7 C7 G7 D7 A7 E7	(A#, D, F, G#) (F, A, C, D#) (C, E, G, A#) (G, B, D, F) (D, F#, A, C) (A, C#, E, G) (E, G#, B, D)	Sevenths:	G7 D7 A7 E7 B7 F#7 C#7	(G, B, D, F) (D, F#, A, C) (A, C#, E, G) (E, G#, B, D) (B, D#, F#, A) (F#, A#, C#, E) (C#, F, G#, B)	
Others:  × = Double Sharp	C°7 G°7 D°7 F×	(C, D#, F#, A) (C#, E, G, A#) (D, F, G#, B) (F, A, C#)	Others:	C°7 G°7 D°7 D×	(C, D#, F#, A) (C#, E, G, A#) (D, F, G#, B) (D, F#, A#)	

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# Annual Club Directory

Club Editors George & Dorothy Wagner 155 N. Harbor Drive #1102 Chicago, IL 60601-7318

This list is published in our winter issue and is updated as needed in each issue. It contains autoharp clubs & clubs where autoharp players are welcome. If you know a club we've not mentioned, please send the information to the Club Editors.

# ARKANSAS

Harps of the Ouachitas 1st Monday each month, 7:00 PM c/o Jann and Jack Barnett 1709 Miller Avenue Mena, AR 71953 501 394-3665

## Old Time Music Association

2nd Sunday each month, 1:30 - 4:30 PM c/o Valta Sexton 3643 Wilma Avenue Ft. Smith, AR 72904 501 782-9004 or 474-0333

# CALIFORNIA

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223 Joseph Road
Manteca, CA 95336
209 239-1589

# The San Diego Autoharp Club

Sometimes get together c/o Diane Pierreuse 431-3931 dpierreuse@aol.dom The San Diego
Folk Song Society
2nd Saturday of the
month at 6:45 PM
All Souls Episcopal
Church on Catalina Blvd.
c/o Diane Pierreuse
431-3931
dpierreuse@aol.dom.

# Scottish Fiddlers of Los Angeles 1 or 2 Sundays a month 1:30 PM c/o Jan Tappan

c/o Jan Tappan1938 Rose Villa St.Pasadena, CA 91107818 793-3716FAX: 818 793-9401

# Valley of the Moon Autoharpers

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# COLORADO

Colorado Autoharp Club (formerly Denver Area Autoharp Club) 2nd Sunday of month, 4:00 PM Swallow Hill Music Asso. 1905 South Pearl Denver, CO 80210 303 777-1003 c/o Mary Harris 303 695-9358, and Margaret Bakker 303 986-0769 margaretbakker630@

Pikes Peak Harpers Every Tues. 7:00 - 9:00 PM 12:30 - 4:30 PM 1627 Wynkoop Drive

Colorado Springs, CO

c/o Bob Bernard

webtv.net

(address above) 719 596-3060 or Maeta Goodwin 719 573-8890 FAX 719 548-4525 goodwimi@fotf.org

## DELAWARE

Brandywine
Dulcimer Fellowship
1st Friday each month,
7:30 PM
c/o Earl Roth
2112 Peachtree Dr.
Wilmington, DE 19805
302 998-7767

# ILLINOIS

# David Adler Cultural Center

Every Friday except last Friday each month, 8:00 - 12:00 PM c/o Paul Tyler 1700 N. Milwaukee Ave. Libertyville, IL 60641 847 367-0707

Fox Valley
Folklore Society

Every Wednesday, 8:00 PM Mack's Silver Pheasant (4 miles north of Rte 64 onRte 25 near St. Charles, IL) c/o Juel Ulven 755 N. Evanslawn Ave. Aurora, IL 60506 630 897-FOLK

# Hammers and Noters Dulcimer Society of Illinois

c/o Donna Tufano PO Box 59 Elmwood Park, IL 60635 630 456-6292

## Masthouse

Ist Saturday of month, 7:00 PM Open Stage (teens and up) 528 E. Calhoun Woodstock, IL 60098 c/o Slyvia Francois 103 Sharon Dr. Sleepy Hollow, IL 60118 847 836-MAST

## **IOWA**

Happy Hearts
Autoharp Club
3rd Saturday each month

12:30 - 4:30 PM c/o Dora Miller 2111 N. 5th Avenue, E. Newton, IA 50208 515 792-3977

## KANSAS

'Harps Plus
3rd Sunday each month,
2:00 - 4:45 PM
Immanual Baptist
Hillside Church
147 S. Hillside
Wichita, KS
c/o Loren & Marie Wells
10514 E. Bluestem
Wichita, KS 67207-5761
316 682-8048

Ozark Wilderness Dulcimer Club

2nd Tuesday each month, 6:00 PM High School, Joplin, MO c/o Joyce & Lloyd Woods Box 158 Crestline, KS 66728 316 389-2377

Winfield Autoharp Club

2nd Thursday, each month, 7:00 PM c/o Karen Nickel 1910 W. 14th Avenue Winfield, KS 67156 316 221-1219 or Diane Haddock mrfish@horizon.hit.net

# LOUISIANA

Ark-La-Tex
Autoharp Club
(formerly Shreveport

Autoharp Society)
2nd Saturday each
month, 1:00 - 4:00 PM
Brookwood Baptist Church
8900 Kingston Road
Shreveport, LA
c/o Glenn Flesher
9534 Royalton Drive
Shreveport, LA 71118
318 686-5727

# MARYLAND

410 742-6619

A Group of Us on the Eastern Shore of Maryland Every other Saturday 7:00 PM c/o Charlie Long

cklong@sae.ssu.umd.edu

MASSACHUSETTS

New England Folk Festival Association c/o Nancy Hanssen, Pres. 1950 Massachusetts Ave. Cambridge, MA 02140 617 354-1340

# **MICHIGAN**

Autoharps Unlimited 2nd or 3rd Tuesday of month, 7:00 PM c/o Kathy Wieland 2230 Blueberry Lane Ann Arbor, MI 48103 313 769-2849 katwieland@aol.com

Jolly Hammers and Strings Dulcimer Club 4th Saturday each month, 1:00 PM Chippewa Nature Center 400 S. Badour Road Midland, MI 517 631-0830 c/o Jane & Bill Kuhlman 2769 S. Homer Road Midland, MI 48640-9532

Saginaw Subterranean Strings 3rd Friday of month 7:00 PM, September through May c/o John & Sharon Skaryd 11239 Lake Circle Dr, N. Saginaw, MI 48609 517 781-0849

517 835-5085

# MISSOURI

Focal Point Every Thursday 7:00 PM 8158 Big Bend Blvd.

Webster Groves, MO 63119 c/o Linda Ritterbusch 314 961-7427

Music Folkjam
3rd Saturday each
month, 3:00 - 5:00 PM
c/o Andy or Don Ploof

8015 Big Bend Blvd. Webster Groves, MO 63119 314 961-2838

Singing Strings Autoharp Club 2nd Monday each month, 6:30 - 8:30 PM c/o Alice Penovich 627 S. Newton Springfield, MO 65806 417 831-4913

# **NEW YORK**

Adirondak Bluegrass League, Inc. Usually 3rd Sunday each month, 2:00 PM c/o Irene Clothier, Pres. PO Box 301 Corinth, NY 12822 518 747-0039

# NORTH CAROLINA

Crystal Strings
Dulcimer Club

1st Sunday of each month,
1:30 PM

Belks Plaza, Arendall St.
Morehead City, NC
c/o Donnell Meadows
919 726-7699 or
Terri Moore
919 393-7663
w7o2q7mh@coa
stalnet.com

# OHIO

Canton
Folksong Society
Usually 2nd Saturday
each month, 1:00 PM
Street of Shops in
McKinley Historical Museum
800 McKinley
Memorial Dr. NW
Canton, OH 44718
330 455-7043
c/o Christina Kambrick
1707 32nd Street NE
Canton, OH 44714

330 453-5773

Dulci-More: Folk and **Traditional Musicians** 1st Tuesday & 3rd Wednesday each month, 7:00 PM First United Methodist Church of Salem 244 South Broadway Salem, OH 44460-3816 c/o Bill Schilling 984 Homewood Avenue Salem, OH 44460-3816 330 332-4420 billssss@gnn.com http://members.gnn.com/ billssss/mw/dmhp.html

# **OKLAHOMA**

Oklahoma City Traditional Music Asso. 1st Saturday each month c/o Anita Roesler 823 N.W. 43rd Street Oklahoma City, OK 73118 405 524-5334

## OREGON

Portland Autoharp Group Normally the 2nd Friday of each month c/o Ellie and Ken Rice 02 SW Ridge Drive Portland, OR 97216 rice@ssd.intel.com

# PENNSYLVANIA

Angel Strings Autoharp Club

Ist Monday of month, 6:00 - 9:00 PM c/o Linda S. Huber RD 3, Box 357 Packing House Road Hanover, PA 17331-9414 717 637-6857

Bucks County
Folk Song Society
1st Sunday each month,
6:30 PM
Wrightstown Friends

Meeting, Rt. 413 Wrightstown, PA c/o John Hook 410 Twin Streams Dr. Warminster, PA 18974 215 675-0497 hook@voicenet.com bcfss@prodigy.com/ http://pages.prodigy.com/ bcfss/

Frosty Valley
Dulcimer Friends
Ist Monday each month,
7:00 - 10:00 PM
c/o Helen Miller
713 Bloom St.
Danville, PA 17821

717 275-2642

Lancaster County Folk Music & Fiddlers' Society 2nd Sunday each month, 2:00 PM 110 Tulane Terrace Lancaster, PA c/o Sharan Sachs PO Box 4541 Lancaster, PA 17604-3003 717 396-9752

Off-The-Wall
Dulcimer Society
1st Sunday each month,
2:00 - 5:00 PM
St. Stephen's

Lutheran Church New Kingston, PA c/o Rebecca Askey 134 E. Winding Hill Rd. Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 717 766-2982

The Bar None Autoharp Society c/o Bob Woodcock 268 Barren Hill Road Conshohocken, PA 19428 banjerbob@aol.com

## TEXAS

East Texas Acoustic Musicians First Saturday each month, 2:00 - 5:00 PM Greggton 1stBaptist Church, 4520 E. Marshall Ave. Longview, TX 75604 c/o Donny F. Ross 3733 Linda Kaye Longview, TX 75604 903 297-2116

'Harps Over Texas Autoharp Club 4th Tuesday each month, 7:00PM except December c/o Nathan Sarvis 1904 Moonlight Drive Denton, TX 76208 817 387-2020 n.sarvis@tenet.edu

## HAAMS (Houston Area Acoustic Music Society)

Acoustic Showcase: Every 4th Friday of the month from 7:00 to 10:00 PM Hickory Hollow Restaurant 101 Heights Boulevard. Acoustic Jam: Every 2nd Friday of the month from 7:00 to 10:00 PM Pufferbellies Resturant Main Street Old Town Spring c/o Peggy Carter 16142 Hexham Drive Spring, Texas 77379 713 370-9495 carterm@springbranch isd.tenet.edu

Lone Star State
Dulcimer Society
2nd Saturday each
month, 1:00 - 5:00 PM
c/o Linda Lowe Thompson
1114 Vine Street
Denton, TX 76201
817 387-4001

# TENNESSEE

Folk Group
Meets monthly
c/o Bob Mead
205 922-3538 (work)
615 433-0065
bobm@camber.com

# VIRGINIA

Capital 'Harpers Autoharp Club

3rd weekend each month c/o Connie & Nathan Grace 7903 Central Park Circle Alexandria, VA 22309 703 780-7707 or John and Mary Dettra 703 790-1427 or Neil Walters nwalters@oracle.com

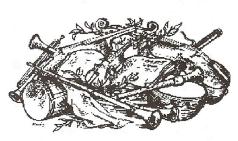
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of Greater Washington
Meets now and then
c/o Keith Young
3815 Kendale Road
Annandale, VA 22003
703 941-1071

# WASHINGTON

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Puget Sound
(H.A.R.P.S.)
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c/o Cathy Britell
206 232-7352
britell@u.washington.edu

Spokane Falls Autoharp Club c/o Leone Peterson 5605 N. Northwood Dr. Spokane, WA 99212 509 922-7283

Third Thursday
Autoharp Thing
3rd Thursday each month
c/o Cathy Britell
206 232-7352
britell@u.washington.edu



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# Kilby Snow

# JUST FOR THE RECORD

by Mike Fenton

hilst recently reading through some back issues of AQ, I again read Joe Riggs' article on Kilby Snow and my thoughts strayed back to my first visit to the Galax area in 1972. It was there that I was privileged to meet the great man for the first time. (He came looking for me after seeing me featured in a newspaper article.) I was also able to acquire recordings of Kilby which I have never come across anywhere else.

One of the many friends I made amongst the bluegrass community in Galax was Beverley Davis, a respected banjo and Dobro player who was very interested in the autoharp. His father, Dr. W. P. Davis, had played autoharp with the famed Bogtrotters Band of Galax and had been recorded back in the 1920s. On mentioning to Beverley that I had recently had a visit from Kilby Snow, he made me a gift of a 45 rpm issue, Autoharp Chimes/No Big Broad Highway. This recording was then currently available in the Galax area on the MO DO label (Mountain Doer Records), numbered 25161. As far as we know, this was Kilby's only single release, and it is very important in that both sides are unavailable elsewhere, although a different version of Autoharp Chimes is present on the Country Songs and Tunes with Autoharp made by Mike

I have no information on the obscure mountain label on which the record was issued, but at the time, I was fascinated,

Seeger on Folkways 3902.

not just by Kilby's incredible playing, but also by his obvious liking for delving into bluegrass for part of his repertoire and by his complete originality in arranging instrumental and vocal material. I recall one Galax local saying to me, "Yea, when they made Kilby, they threw away the mold. *Autoharp Chimes* is none other

on Mike's suggestion, it having become virtually a new tune.

The MO DO release is a reminder that this record was issued in the days before electronic tuners were in common use (How on Earth did we manage?). Autoharp Chimes is a two-part tune in which the parts are in separate keys, C and G. But, a close listen to the recording reveals that it was pitched at C# and G#!

Timed at 2 minutes 39 seconds, the rather "echoey" cut features

Kilby playing his customary drag-note style with extraor-

dinary clarity in both high and lower registers. He is accompanied by gui-

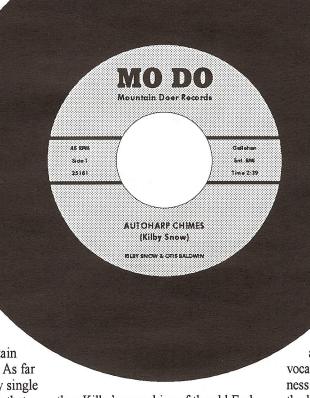
tarist Otis Baldwin.

who is credited on both sides of the label and plays good guitar with strong bass lines. Kilby plays the B part quite briefly each time, and plays A/B through five times before the record ends with a fade-out on the sixth A part.

The flip side, No Big
Broad Highway, is a gospel
song of Kilby's own composition. Played in the key of D,
again, it today comes out at D#. His
vocal style possessed a pleasing gruff-

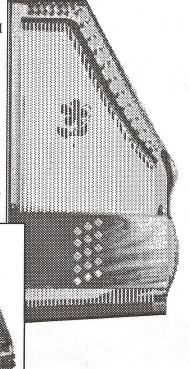
ness, a rough mountain edge which held the listener's attention, heard here solo throughout on both verses and chorus. The autoharp/guitar combination produces a very satisfying depth and fullness on this side.

As I was visiting the Galax Oldtime Fiddlers' Convention for the first time back in that far-off summer of '72, it was natural that I should purchase some al-



than Kilby's reworking of the old Earl Scruggs tune, *Flint Hill Special*. I can hear phrases in it that remind me also of *Foggy Mountain Chimes*, which partially explains the "chimes" in Kilby's title. Kilby originally used Scruggs' *Flint Hill* title, but when recording a quite thrilling breakneck version with Mike Seeger in 1966, it was issued as *Autoharp Special* 

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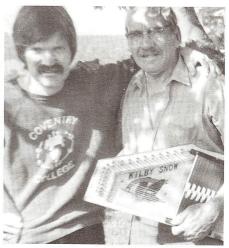
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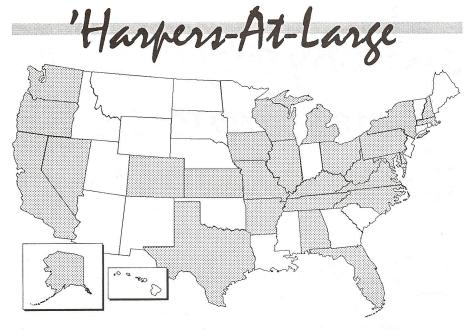
Mike Fenton with Kilby Snow on the occasion of Kilby's seeking out the English visitor. Independence, Virginia, August 1972.

bums featuring live convention music. To my delight, I came across a copy of More Goodies from the Hills, issued on Union Grove Records and featuring music recorded live at the Union Grove Convention of 1969. There is one contribution from Kilby on this collection, an instrumental version of White House Blues, once associated with the famed banjoist, Charlie Poole, in the 1920s. Being a live cut, the recording quality is not great, but the audience obviously hadn't heard anything quite like it. There is some warm spontaneous applause by the time Kilby is well into the third time through, followed by a fervent response at the end. Accompaniment is provided by son Jim Snow on guitar and Mike Hudak on second autoharp.

Bearing in mind how small Kilby's recorded output is – were it not for Mike Seeger, Jim Snow, and Mike Hudak's efforts, there would be virtually nothing available – these recordings I acquired 24 years ago have great significance to me today. He was a great, great, very creative player, and how I wish he could have lived to see the autoharp world as it is today. He was the first musician who convinced me that I could really believe in the autoharp as one's main instrument. And that from a man who told me he preferred the Dobro! •

Editors' Note: For those of you who are interested in the Kilby Snow video which we announced earlier; it will be coming out this year.





On-Site Reports of Concerts, Workshops, Festivals, and Other Major Autoharp Events

Tina Louise Barr Concert
Place: Unity Church, Modesto, CA
Reporting: Ken van de Kieft
Modesto, CA

November 16 was a great evening for lovers of both the autoharp and the Celtic harp. Tina began the evening with a solo autoharp performance.

Her set began with an original number named *High Gear*. This proved to be a very interesting piece with nice tempo changes and a lively feel. She then proceeded through pieces from her CD with an added tune, *La Bastringue*.

Until recently, Tina has been strictly a chromatic performer. While she switched to her G-D-A diatonic, she took questions and answers from the crowd revealing her early inspirations and questions regarding the autoharp.

She played *Cherokee Shuffle* and the *Growling Old Man*, *Cackling Old Woman*. This ended the diatonic interlude much too quickly. Her new 'harp has a full rich sound and adds a new dimension to her playing.

Tina ended the first half with Endearing Young Charms, a duet of the Panhandle Rag with her husband John Gwinner on guitar, and La Bamba.

This evening was billed as "Harps in High Gear." David Sullivan played the next set on Celtic Harp. He was superb with a fine set of "Americana" tunes with two O'Carolan tunes added for spice. His set ended with an informal, unrehearsed pair of duets with Tina, of *Soldier's Joy* and *Southwind*. The harps sounded great together.

The evening ended with Tina inviting her friends from her group "Fretting Around" to join her. This group consists of Frank Solivan I and II, John, and Tina. Instrumentation includes banjo, mandolin, guitar, fiddle, and autoharp. The evening ended on this "bluegrassy" note.

Tina rarely leaves the Modesto area for performance except for the Mountain Laurel and Willamette Valley Autoharp Gatherings, and Winfield. If you ever have the opportunity to watch and hear her, don't miss the chance. Although she doesn't offer any vocals, there is always something to learn from her selection and arrangements of tunes.

Willamette Valley Autoharp Gathering Revisited Place: Albany, OR

Reporting: Fuey Herring Yuma, AZ

In my report in the Fall AQ, I omitted some of my favorite memories of the Willamette Valley Autoharp Gathering, which was held near Albany, Oregon last August. I'd like everyone out there to know about the remarkable home-cooked meals, innovative workshops, and spectacular performances by Tina Louise Barr, Meryle Korn, Les Gustafson-Zook, and Jon ten Broek. So much was packed into those two days, that I, for one, didn't come back to Earth for at least a week.

The open stage period spotlighted some excellent talent, as well – including the nimble fingers and beatific smile of the (still) ubiquitous Cathy Britell. Another unforgettable musical experience was the amazing artistry of Greg Schneeman on the bowed psaltery.

This was surely the largest, grandest autoharp gathering west of the Rockies and next summer's event promises to include an even more prestigious array of presentors and performers. We can look forward to spending time with some of the biggest names in autoharp. Maybe we'll even get to jam with them! Those of us out West, who can't find our way to the Mountain Laurel Gathering or to Winfield, will finally be exposed to some of the happenings and folks that we have only read about.

There's lots of room for camping on the meadow adorned with flowers and stately trees, nestled in rich farmland – a perfect site for "our kind" of music.



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PO Box A, Newport, PA 17074

# Jan- than a spread for toast. It should be sweet for all.

by Jim Hudson

Several years ago, as a budding player and performer, I arrived at a festival two days early. I was privileged to meet some folks who were inclined to stay up almost all night long playing music. That idea may be novel to you, but there really are folks that are that fanatic about their jams. We played "every song that driver knew" and some went so well, we even played them over again.

The next year, I arrived two days early in great expectations of the jam to come. However, during the year that had passed, I had learned new tunes and hoped to have a contribution to make to the group. You see, what I failed to mention is the five of six new tunes these folks shared with me. They also gave me a couple of new slants to some old tunes. So anyway, I was really charged about sharing my new stuff with these newly acquired musical friends.

I was thrilled to find the same group camping in almost the same spot. I grabbed my instruments and gleefully unloaded. However, I not only found the same people in the same spot, I also found them playing the same songs, the same way as they had the year before. Well, I joined in and began to try to share my

new stuff with them. They didn't really make much effort to join in, or to try to learn the new tunes. My efforts to share turned more into a solo performance. From a player's standpoint, this left me feeling like an outsider, because as soon as I finished my tune, someone would call out "How about Soldiers Joy?" or "Well,

we've only done Red

it again."

Wing three times - let's do

The following year, guess what? Same folks, same spot, same tunes, same way, and I had to tell them that I didn't have time to jam that year, but couldn't tell them I wanted to go somewhere to jam with someone who could challenge me with new and exciting tunes and techniques. I felt like I was lying to them but better to lie than hurt their feelings.

I jammed with some new and musically exciting folks. Boy were we cooking when in came a beginner and asked us to play Golden Slippers so he could join us. Wanting to be musically and politically correct besides just wanting to be polite, we played Golden Slippers.

Guess what? As soon as passers-by heard us playing Golden Slippers, they came right in, sat down and began to join us. Now, this is perfectly normal behavior, and under most circumstances is

perfectly

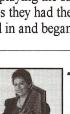
accept-

able. The problem here arose when the original members of the group tried to get back to what we were playing in the first place. I overheard the comment made by one person as they were leaving that we were rude and inconsiderate because we played so fast the beginners couldn't join in or

keep up.

The event I am about to relate did not stem from this particular situation, but I do know the players in this scenario. Let me preface it all with my opinion that the players involved are among the most considerate and professional that I have ever had the privilege of knowing.

The event: In a club newsletter, an article was published berating advanced players from "excluding" other players from their sessions. One of the players responded with a very polite but to the point letter. The general gist was simply that the festival promoters should be glad that their festival was drawing so many professional and advanced level players. It also pointed out that as professional or top level players, they felt they were entitled to jam together in such a way as to be musically challenged. It was also rec-



# TINA LOUISE BARR

Renowned for her innovative styles on the Autoharp, Tina plays all the instruments recorded on this lively, 14 tune release. "To-be-listened-to-often . . . she scorches those picks like some hot chili peppers."

Mike Herr, Reviewer Autoharp Quarterly



One of our instrument's best practitioners . . . Tina plays with drive, fluidity, and clarity." Eileen Roys, Editor Autoharp Clearinghouse

Cassette \$11.50 CD \$16.50 Includes shipping (CA residents add 7.375% sales tax)

Visit Tina's web page hosted by KUOP-FM: http://www.ttn.net/kuop.tbarr.htm TINA LOUISE BARR BREAKIN' TRADITION 1801 H Street Suite B-5 #225 Modesto, CA 95354 ommended that the lower level players (I don't mean to sound elitist here) carry a recorder, and instead of trying to join a session that was obviously over their heads, they could tape the session and then use it to learn new tunes and techniques.

In the next addition of the club newsletter, the reply was much the same as the initial article, admonishing all advanced players to use jam sessions as a means of helping or teaching new or beginning players. My reply to this... May their feet bear an odor similar to the dung of ten thousand house cats.

It is not my intention to argue the right or wrong of the issue just recalled. However, it is my intention to pose some questions for thought. Does your right to jam? Does your level of playing entitle you to demand others to slow down and simplify?

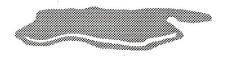
Beats me! But I do know that the pattern of "same folks, same spot, same tunes, same way" is all too often repeated at festivals all around the country. The solution is really quite simple. If you are a very good and progressive player, stay out of the jam sessions where the level of

playing is not as challenging. You have no right to expect them to change what they are doing just because you have arrived. The same goes for the beginning players trying to join an advanced jam. You are out of place and have no right to intrude, and it is an intrusion, believe me.

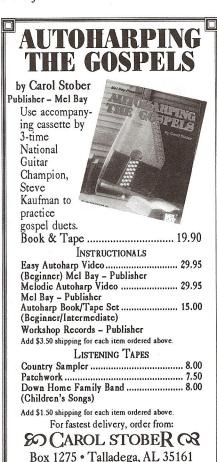
A final note. Jam sessions are the single best source for learning new tunes and embellishments that I have ever found. You can learn a lot in workshops, but you can test it and use it in a jam session. Please begin to look at jam sessions not just as a chance to play music with friends, but more importantly a way to learn from and share with your musical friends.

If you can't find someone at any festival in the country who plays at your level where you can join in, be a part, yet still share and learn from them, then you just aren't trying.

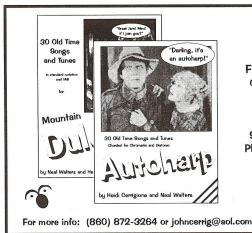
We must try to breathe new life into our jam sessions and bring back that spark and excitement to our music, at the same time allowing others to do so as well.







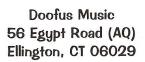
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by Linda Huber

Johann Pachelbel lived from 1653 to 1706 in Nuremburg, Germany. He was an organ composer who developed the contrapuntal art of paraphrasing chorale melodies and was one of several composers who directly influenced the music of Bach.<sup>1</sup>

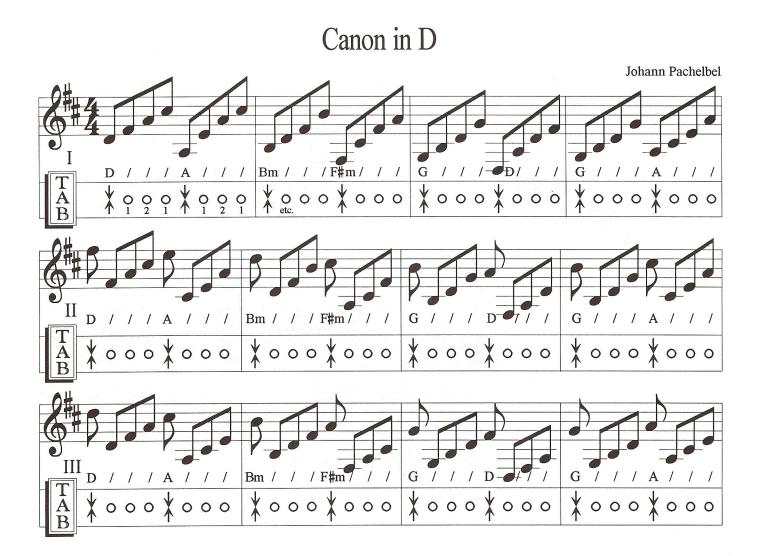
A Canon is a composition in which one or more voices follow and imitate the melody of the first voice.<sup>2</sup> The original canon consists of 27 variations that are

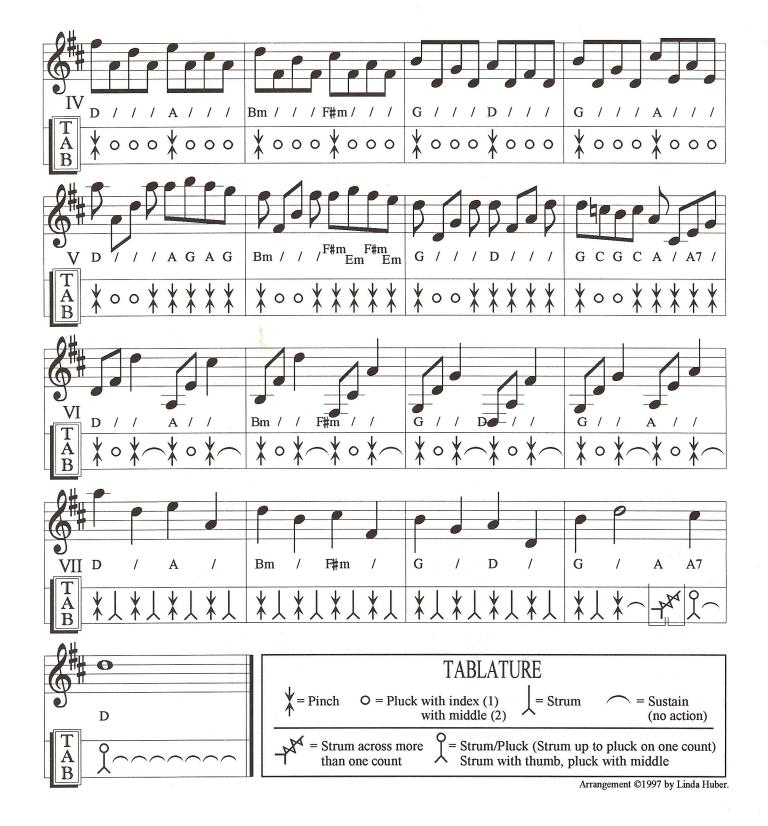
played over a ground bass. A ground bass is a slow bass line that is used as a framework for improvisations by Renaissance or Baroque musicians, not unlike the way jazz musicians use chord progressions such as the 12-bar blues.<sup>3</sup>

## NOTES ON PLAYING MY ARRANGEMENT:

 Variations 1, 2, and 3; exact notes for arpeggios not necessary as long as they are kept below the melody.\* This piece is easier to play than it is to read or write!

- · Beginners can just strum chords.
- Two or more players can play different variations at the same time.
- \* First and fifth note of each measure.
- Music in History McKinney & Anderson © 1957
- <sup>2</sup> Funk & Wagnells Standard Dictionary
- Notes from arr. by Paul Furnas, Palo Alto, California with additions by Becky Askey.







If you are a professional autoharper and wish to be featured, please send photo, biography, and schedule to:
Mary Ann Johnston
RD3, Box 190-A
New Cumberland, WV 26047

NOTE: These performance and/or workshop listings are limited to those which feature at least 50% autoharp. Contact the performer for additional information. Also, cancellations and/or changes can occur. Check with the performer before traveling far.

# **BRYAN BOWERS**

c/o Scott O'Malley & Asso. PO Box 9188 Colorado Springs, CO 80932 719 635-7776

**Pro-File:** AQ January 89 **Performance Schedule:** 

February 28
Ten Pound Fiddle
East Lansing, MI

March 3

Ingersoll Dinner Theater

Des Moines, IA March 9

Sonoma County Folk Festival

Santa Rosa, CA April 18

Focal Point Coffeehouse

St. Louis, MO April 19

Acoustic Music Series

Omaha, NB

# **ROZ BROWN**

1549 S. Holland Court Lakewood, CO 80232 303 969-9645

**Pro-File:** AQ October 89 **Performance Schedule:** 

Every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night

Buckhorn Exchange Restaurant 1000 Osage Street

Denver, CO

# JULIE DAVIS

PO Box 1302 Nederland, CO 80466 303 258-3444

**Pro-File:** AQ July 91

**Performance Schedule:** 

February 6 CCIRA

Denver, CO February 12

"How to Jam" Workshop

Swallow Hill

Denver, CO

February 22

Kids Concert

Swallow Hill Denver, CO

March 16

Denver Public Library

Denver, CO March 17-22

Colorado Academy Music Camp

Denver, CO

April 19

Rocky Mountain Storytelling Conference

"Ballads" session Arvada Center

Denver, CO

# PAT McINTIRE

Stewed Mulligan Route 2, Box 229 West Union, WV 26456 304 782-3631

**Pro-File:** AQ January 90 **Performance Schedule:** 

March 17

West Virginia Brewing Co.

Morgantown, WV

# LUCILLE REILLY

PO Box 347

Millington, NJ 07946

908 604-9743

**Pro-File:** AQ April 92 **Performance Schedule:** 

February 15

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Yardley, PA April 26

New Jersey Folk Festival

New Brunswick, NJ

April 26

Mine Street Coffeehouse

New Brunswick, NJ

# MIKE SEEGER

c/o Josh Dunson 520 South Clinton Oak Park, IL 60304-1111 708 386-1252

rpmjosh@aol.com **Pro-File:** AQ January 89 **Performance Schedule:** 

February 1

Stone Soup Providence, RI February 2

Woods Hole Music Society

Woods Hole, MA

May 1

Boston University

Ryder Hall

Boston, MA

# **BILL & LAURIE SKY**

PO Box 70060

Nashville, TN 37207-0060

615 859-1419

**Pro-File:** AQ April 90

**Performance Schedule:** 

February 4
Dallas, TX

February 5

Texarkana, AR

February 7

Groesbeck, TX

February 8
Blue River Sound

Winter Bluegrass Festival

Durant, OK

February 9

Keithville, LA

February 12 Blanchard, LA

February 13

The Dry Dock Restaurant

Greenwood, LA

February 14

Houston, TX February 22

The Bell Buckle Cafe

Bell Buckle, TN

February 25

Blue Mountain College

Blue Mountain, MS February 27

Burnsville School

Burnsville, MS

February 28

Poplar Springs Baptist church

Kilmichael, MS

March 2

First Baptist Church

Galatia, IL

March 7

Viburnum, MO

March 8

Licking, MO

March 16

White Oak Church

Cambridge, IA

March 21

The Bell Buckle Cafe

Bell Buckle, TN

March 22 Sledge, MS March 23

Bethel Baptist Church

Anderson, AL March 25

Pine Grove School

Ripley, MS March 26

Glendale School

Glen, MS April 5

The Bell Buckle Cafe Bell Buckle, TN

April 6

Robinhood Baptist Church

Brandon, MS *April 11* Bronson, TX

April 12

Piney Park Jamboree

Elizabeth, LA April 13

Kilgore First Church of the Nazarene

Kilgore, TX *April 18* 

Lake, MS April 20

Mt. Enterprise, TX

April 27

Baptist Chapel Sand Point, ID

April 27

Crossroads Gym Rose Lake, ID

# **IVAN STILES**

1585 State Road

Phoenixville, PA 19460

610 935-9062

pickering bend@worldlynx.net

**Pro-File:** AQ October 88 **Performance Schedule:** 

February 8

Sarasota Chapter Friends of Florida Folk

Sarasota, FL February 9

Workshop and Concert

Naples, FL

February 10

Workshop

Naples, FL

February 15

Yalaha Country Bakery

Yalaha, FL

February 15
Lake County Folk

Eustis, FL

February 22
Workshop

Homeland Heritage Park

Homeland, FL (Lakeland area)

February 22

Concert

Homeland Heritage Park Homeland, FL (Lakeland area)

March 16
Workshop

New Kingston, PA

April 19

Cranberry Coffeehouse Binghamton, NY

# **ALEX USHER**

216 N. Elm Avenue

Webster Groves, MO 63119-2420

314 961-8631

**Pro-File:** AQ Winter 96 **Performance Schedule:** 

February 4

The Sheldon Concert Hall

St. Louis, MO

April 26-27

Bollinger Mill State Historic Site

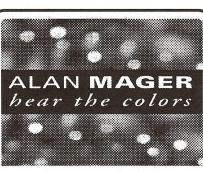
Bollinger Mill, MO

# CHARLES WHITMER

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For bookings and other information, call 703-256-1068 or e-mail afmager@erols.com

**Pro-File:** AQ April 93 **Performance Schedule:** 

February 7

Winter Festival of Acoustic Music

Workshops Irving, TX

February 22

Texas State Sacred Harp

Singing Convention

College Station, TX

March 1

Beginner #2 Autoharp Workshop

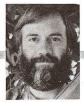
The Woodlands, TX





# Critics' Choice

If you have an autoharp-related book, video, or a recording which is predominantly autoharp that you would like to have considered for review, please send it to Autoharp Quarterly. Submissions cannot be returned.



Mike's Choice Mike Herr

Country Radio (CD) Autoharp: Judy Austin PO Box 49323 Atlanta, GA 30359

Love Crisis • World of Fantasy • Second Fiddle • Precious Memories • Some Loves are Better Left Undone • Through the Years • Johnny • Country Radio • Cold Cold Heart • Dahlonega • Fishing Fever • Please Take This Love from My Heart • Overcome with Memories of You • Sweet Hour of Prayer

OK, so I'm not a big fan of country music – usually because of the whiney, woe-is-me aspect of it all. If I didn't know Judy from the summer festival scene I'd have thought, oh no, a difficult review coming up. But having heard her best attribute for several years in a row made me look forward to doing this one (I'll get back to that "attribute" in a bit).

Judy has done a bang-up job of coordinating an excellent cast of musicians and backup vocalists. The arrangements are very tight and controlled, but there's breathing and feeling going on – it's not mechanical. The piano accompaniment is of special quality and the fiddle, mandola and mandolin breaks are above average. Beautiful backup vocal harmony complements Judy's special attribute – more about that later.

Technically, the CD is just fine. The sound is full, rich, and fills the sound stage. Judy has crossed that line into a folksy kind of sound that appeals to me personally.

The autoharp work is basically supportive, with Judy's unique rhythm strum on her one-key C, F, G, A, and E diatonics backing up most selections. I did detect one melody break on "Country Ra-

dio" – short, simple but clean and got the job done. I think I even heard some harmony overdubbing on that selection. Maybe we can prod Judy into developing more of that lead melody playing to go along with that special attribute (I'm almost there).

There are fully eight songs written by Joyce Brookshire, also of Atlanta, and they range from the typically metaphorical Love Crisis to the very cute and funny Fishing Fever. But my vote for the Best of Show, far and away, goes to Judy's rendition of the traditional hymn – Sweet Hour of Prayer. You see, there is an incredible interweave of the voice of Robert Novak's cello with Judy Austin's special attribute – her voice. This is a world-class version the most beautiful and moving one I've ever heard. The connection of Judy's voice with the harmonies of her slow 'harp strumming and the cello - overdubbed with a drone line and a higher harmony line – are just entrancing. Excellent!

Yes, Judy's voice is strong, confident, and extremely pleasing to listen to. My choir director back in my Mennonite church would have been proud of her (though humbly so), and would have given her two solos in a performance. Her vibrato is sweet, her intonation is right on, and I can't say there's anybody else I'd rather listen to than Judy Austin. Well done!

Hear the Colors Autoharp: Alan Mager PO Box 1221 Annandale, VA 22003

Over the Waterfall • March of the 10,000 Autoharpers • Skye Boat Song • You Made Me Love You • Harvest Home • Planxty Fannie Power • Polka Tsai-Tsai Lya-Lya • When You and I Were Young, Maggie • The Hundred Pipers • Friendship Waltz • Moonlight Bay • How Great Thou Art • Come Josephine in My Flying Machine • Can-Can

From the first lively, pick-up-your-ears intro to the last knock-your-socks-off solo,

Alan Mager shows why he's won five of the top six prizes in autoharp competition around the country. In between, he rambles expertly through the world of music, giving us a taste of his extensive fund of "knotely knowledge."

It's just so fascinating to me that someone has been able to take our beloved autoharp and adapt a distinctive style of play to so many types of music. There is a polka, an old-time reel, a ragtime piece, waltzes, a march, swing tunes, show tunes, a hymn, a Carolan piece, a hornpipe, and even a sprightly jig. Each of these has a distinctive character, either through Alan's picking style, his chord selection, or instrumentation.

Alan's knack for chord selection has few peers. Using seventh chords at unexpected spots in *March of the 10,000 Autoharpers* lends a carnival air to the piece. Those distinctive diminished chords are buffed to perfection in *You Made Me Love You* and especially in *When You And I Were Young, Maggie*. The most beautiful, luscious usage of suspended 4ths is found in the *Skye Boat Song*, which also features sweet contrapuntal melody on lap dulcimer by Jan Milner and guitar by Charley Groth.

Speaking of Jan and Charley, these very capable musicians provide well-rounded bass, guitar, and lap dulcimer backup and lead picking. I especially like Jan's lead on the dulcimer in two selections – *Skye Boat Song* and *Harvest Home* (I'm in much awe of anyone getting those notes in on the dulcimer in the long runs of this tune). Charley's presence is felt in many aspects of this tape as well, from solid leads on the guitar and mandolin to that most humble of instruments, the bass. Doug Travers also lends a distinctive flavor to the group on rhythm guitar in *You Made Me Love You*.

The last item worth mentioning is the impressive array of playing styles Alan exhibits. His melody lines are very clean and sound so simply done, even through the pieces which require 8-10-12 different

chords. Alan also uses a very pretty, Mike "Fenton-esque" "walk-down" method over the strings in very tasteful amounts in Planxty Fannie Power and How Great Thou Art. My favorite of all is Moonlight Bay for its great chromatic feel and shimmering sound – simply top-notch!

In conclusion, this tape is one of those that would cause the uninitiated to ask – you mean that's only one person? And to the initiated, we can only say - Thank you!



Home to Kentucky Autoharp: Ron Russell The Flat Ridge Boys Rt. 2 Box 113 Troutdale, VA 24378

Home to Kentucky • Little Cabin Home on the Hill • I Miss You All the Time • I Overlooked an Orchid While Looking for a Rose • Little Ole' Log Cabin in the Lane • I Heard the Bluebirds Sing • Truck Driving Man • When You and I Were Young Maggie • Don't Turn Around • Remember Me • I Don't Care if Tomorrow Never Comes • Let's Say Good-bye Like We Said Hello

This tape has a lot of autoharp lead in it. Autoharp lead and accompaniment is the signature of The Flat Ridge Boys.

Home to Kentucky, written by Louis Braswell, is a simple, but beautiful song. It tells of the old home place and the everloving mountains of Kentucky. This is a song I can relate to. Louis writes through feeling and that's where the good music comes from, I think. The heart!

Little Cabin Home on the Hill is an overdone song, but is still one of people's favorites. There are lots of good guitar picking and autoharp breaks in this rendition. Enjoyable.

There is a lot of good autoharp in I Miss You All of the Time. There is also a lot of duet and trio work on this song. Good singing, boys!

I Overlooked an Orchid While Looking for a Rose is a familiar tune to everyone that's ever listened to old country music. The fellows do a nice three-part harmony on the chorus, with a nice break on the autoharp.

have these great old songs to sing! No matter how often Little Ole' Log Cabin in the Lane has been done, it never grows old to my ears. Originally a slave song, the tune used here was taken from the old hymn, Lilly of the Valley. Once again, good singing and playing!

Carl and I [Country Ham] recorded I Heard the Bluebirds Sing, and I've performed it with Jim and Jesse. The boys do a very nice job on this tune, written, as I recall, by Jim Edmund and Maxine Brown many years ago. I hope this beautiful song stays alive forever. The Flat Ridge Boys use a lot of autoharp and guitar on this cut.

Truck Driving Man is a song I would not have selected to do on as good a tape as this one. But we all have our own opinions. They do a good job on the singing, but it reminds me of some of those tractor-trailer drivers who try to run you off the road. - Oh well.

Now, Maggie is more like it. A beautiful traditional song with some of the prettiest words ever heard. They sing it well, and by the way, that's a really nice, simple autoharp break, which is the way it should be! Nice guitar break, also.

I've heard the song, Remember Me done poorly and done well. The boys play a very nice rendition of this song.

There is some good trio singing in I Don't Care if Tomorrow Never Comes.

I do believe that Let's Say Good-bye Like We Said Hello is an old country song. There is a fine autoharp (and guitar) break in this rendition, along with good singing accompaniment. Easy listening!

Well, there you have it. I think you will all enjoy this tape. It's not fancy, but its good, simple and has a nice traditional sound throughout. Maggie is especially well done, but I guess I love that song, and no one sings it with as much feeling. They sing all the words.

Good luck to you boys! Keep up the good work, and God bless!



Gander in the Pratie Hole Autoharp: Mile Herr 210 Reservoir Road Beckley, WV 25801

Gosh, what would we do if we didn't The Maid at the Well • Gander in the Pratie Hole/I Was Born for Sport • The Towers • Early Rising • Great Basin Hornpipe/Convention Reel • Irishman's Heart to the Ladies/Lad O'Beirne's Jig/ Jump at the Sun • Horse • Tamlin's/Return to Milltown/Abbot's Clog • The Orphan/Musical Priest/Casey's Reel/The Clougher Reel • The Hawthorn Tree • Richard Brennan's/Willie Coleman's • Rakes of Clonmel • Father Kelley's/The Acrobat/Last House in Conaught/Charlie Mulvhill's/The Turnpike

> OK, Michael, me boyo, I see va lookin' at me from your picture on the last page. I know we're friends, and I know you are a humble guy, so you better shut your eyes and plug your ears, cause I'm about to say some awful nice things about your recording. And no blarney.

> Mike Herr should be well-known to AQ readers. Winfield finalist, Mountain Laurel finalist, workshop leader, and recording artist. His tape, "Lost In The Woods," introduced the autoharp to Irish dance music. His 'harp style is light, precise and, to my ear, absolutely unique. Irish fiddle tunes tend to be extraordinarily notey and a challenge to most autoharpers. Mike makes it look easy.

> "Gander in the Pratie Hole" consists of Mike Herr on autoharp and bodrhan and Carlos Plumley on fiddle and mandolin. You may remember Carlos Plumley's excellent work from "Lost in the Woods." The tunes are all fiddle tunes: most from the Irish tradition, a few gems from the pen of Northwest fiddler Vivian Williams, one from the late Joe Pancerzewski. Those of you who are regular contradancers will recognize a number of these tunes, those of you who play a lot of Celtic music will know some others, but my guess is that most of these lovely tunes will be unfamiliar to the majority. However, I don't think that will last too long; this tape is a gold mine of great tunes just waiting to learned.

> Recordings of the same genre (i.e. Irish dance tunes or old timey string bands), or recordings using two or three instruments tend to get kinda boring after a while, its the nature of the beast, I guess. This recording, however, is a lively, spirited work that manages to alternate tempos, keys, and instruments throughout. Clearly a well-planned effort that results in a very "listenable" tape.

> > Now, the autoharp playing. Incred-

ible? Amazing? Howduzzydodat? All of the above. Mike has developed his unique style of Celtic autoharp to the point where he no longer has to be "lost in the woods," he stands proudly beside an ace fiddler. Listen very carefully and listen often to this boyo's playing; you will continue to be amazed. For example, long about the third listening, I noticed what seemed like random bass notes in some of the jigs were indeed Mike's replication of the registers heard in the Irish pipes. Howduzzydodat? I consider, without hesitation, this the most important recording of autoharp technique since Marty Schuman's





"Autoharpistry." If you play the autoharp, you have to buy this tape. If you know someone who likes Celtic music, you must buy two. Period.

And what, you ask, is a "pratie?" That's right, it's a potato. So the title could refer to either a root cellar or a cavity in the field where the tuber grew, I guess. "Gander" could be a verb or a noun, animal, or action. Design your own scenario; goose in a root cellar, inspection of a poor (or bountiful) tater field, etc. But buy this tape.

# Keeping with Tradition The DeBusk Family and Friends

Autoharp: Donnie Weaver The DeBusk-Weaver Family 5103 Media Road Oxford, PA 19363

Lonesome Pine Special • Wildwood Flower • You've Been a Friend to Me • The Storms Are on the Ocean • Little Darlin' Pal of Mine • Thinking Tonight of My Blue Eyes • Bury Me Beneath the Willow • Sweet Fern • I'll Be All Smiles Tonight • Hold Fast to the Right • When the Roses Come Again • Gold Watch and Chain

Let me warn you, good people, this is not going to be an objective review. No way. I have been a fan of the DeBusk-Weavers for over twenty years. When I first moved to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in the early 70s, I heard them on a local radio program. "That's Carter Family music!" I said. Then I got to see them in person. "They play Carter Family music in the same spirit as the Carter Family!" I said. "Wow! – And old-timey gospel, too!"

Sometime later I heard them do one of EC Ball's tunes; EC and Orna Ball are maybe my second favorite country group

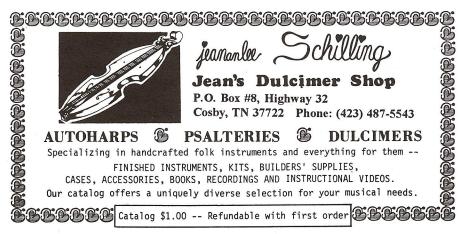
in the universe. Another "Wow!" So, you see, they play my kind of music and they do it perfectly. I love to listen to this group. Ain't nuttin' objective about that!

The DeBusks consist of Burton and his wife, Liz, who hail from around Saltville, Virginia, at the other end of Poor Valley from the Carter homestead. Their daughter Linda is married to Donnie Weaver, whose roots are in Ash County, North Carolina. They live in Oxford, Chester County, Pennsylvania, not a stone's throw from the homes of Ola Belle Reed and the late Kilby Snow. Burton and Donnie both play guitar and Donnie plays autoharp. They all sing, sometimes duets, sometimes trios, sometimes quartets. "And Friends" are George Harris on guitar and vocal and Bryan Irwin on bass. This is their first non-gospel recording.

There is nothing fancy or complicated in this tape. It is basic, elemental Carter Family and it is wonderful. They do not imitate A.P., Sara, and Maybelle. Rather, they sing and play completely true to the form and spirit of the Carters. Their affection for this music is obvious. Donnie plays autoharp on every cut, not like Sara and not like Maybelle, but in his own oldtimey style. Let me point out that he has two of the biggest hands I have ever seen and is able to almost span the entire 36 strings. With all the awesome, knockyour-socks-off 'harp players around, Donnie Weaver remains one of my all-time favorites. The vocal harmonies are also unique to the DeBusk-Weavers, but very much in the spirit of the music, and very enjoyable.

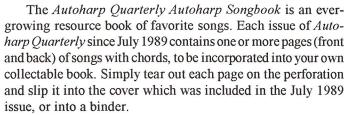
Any woodworker knows that the hardest thing to make is a plain wooden table. Without fancy carvings and stains and gee-gaws, the work has to stand or fall by its own merit. Its beauty goes far deeper than the decoration. This recording is like a piece of Shaker furniture, finely and carefully crafted, full of affection for the work, and a joy to hear. Buy this tape, listen to this tape, sing along with this tape, play your 'harp with this tape. How could you not love it?

One problem by way of a postscript: I got the cassette on a Thursday. Friday morning I left on a four-hour drive to a weekend singing party. I slid the tape in the deck somewhere in New Jersey – it was still playing three hours later when I arrived. The problem was, I was too hoarse to sing. It's that kinda tape.



# **Autoharp Songbook**

© 1997, Limberjack Productions



# How to Use this Songbook

We hope the melodies to the songs in the *Autoharp Quarterly Autoharp Songbook* are familiar to you. If not, they can be found in music books at public libraries and music stores everywhere.

All chords to play the melody are given above each syllable or word of the first verse and chorus.

The chords written above words are always for melody notes. That is why you will see the same chords in succession. (The melody note is included within each chord.) Note: If you are playing strictly diatonic (no 7ths), and the music requires a dominant 7th to play the fourth tone, try the four chord. For example, in the key of C, the F note can be played with the F chord instead of the G7 chord.

A slash following a chord (/) means that you should play the same chord. Slashes are always rhythm strokes, never melody notes.

Following the title of the song is a (2), or (3). The (2) indicates the song is based on duple meter (two beats). This includes 2/4 time and 4/4 time. The (3) indicates the song is based on triple meter (three beats). Some time signatures in triple meter are 3/4, 6/8, and 9/8 time. It isn't important to know in which time signature the song is written, only whether it is based on duple or triple meter. All songs in this songbook are arranged so that each chord and slash is to be given the same amount of time in the count. Those chords and/or slashes that are within brackets [ ] are to be completed in one count.

For convenience, an arrow  $\forall$  is placed above the first count of the first full measure. *Example:* 

# **Amazing Grace (3)**

G G/ [GG] G7/ B7 C/ C G/ A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound

### can be counted:

3 1 2 [3&] 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound

## A final note:

This Songbook now includes over 200 songs, which have been taken from my memory bank. Although that bank is not yet depleated, there is definitely a crack developing where some songs have fallen through and are forgotten. We would appreciate suggestions you may have for future issues. Remember these songs must be in public domain. Thank you. *Mary Lou* 

# When Irish Eyes Are Smiling (3)

C C/C G7/ C C C// When I - rish eyes are smi - ling,

C C F / F F / F C / / / Sure 'tis like a morn in spring.

F G7 F / G7 F / G7 F C / In the lilt of I - rish laugh-ter

D7 / C D7 / D7 D7 / C G7 / / / You can hear the an - gels sing.

G7 C/C G7/ C C C// When I - rish hearts are hap-py,

C C F / F F / F E7 / //
All the world seems bright and gay,

F E7 F/G7 G7/C C//C And when I - rish eyes are smi-ling,

D7 C F G7 F D7 / G7 C / / //
Sure 'twill steal - your heart a - way.

# I Know Where I'm Goin' (2)

G G D G G G / I know where I'm go-in'

[G G] G G C G D //
And I know who's go-in' with me,

Bm Bm Bm Em // I know who I love,

[Em Em] Am Em Am Em Em D // and my dear knows who I'll mar-ry.

I have stockings of silk And shoes of bright green leather, Combs to buckle my hair And a ring for every finger.

Some say he's a gypsy,
But I say he is bonnie.
Fairest of them all
Is my handsome, winsome Johnny.



# **Autoharp Songbook**

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# The Band Played On (3)

C C C Em Em Em Am Am Am C
Ca-sey would waltz with a straw-ber-ry blonde,

F F G7//G7//G7///And the band played on.

G7 G7 G7 F G7 F G7 G7 G7 F He'd glide cross the floor with the girl he  $\,a$  - dored,

G7 F C// C// C////
And the band played on.

[C C] C C G7 G7 G7 C7 C7 C7 F F [/But his brain was so load-ed it near-ly ex-plod -ed,

F] Dm Dm Dm Dm Dm Am Dm ////
The poor girl would shake with a - larm.

Dm  $\, F \, E7 \, F \, F \, G7 \, F \, C \, C \, G7 \, C$  He'd ne'er leave the girl with the straw-ber-ry  $\, curl, \,$ 

F C D7//G7// C///// And the band played on.



# A Bird in a Gilded Cage (3)

C C / B7 C C / [G7 C] Dm / Dm Dm / She's on - ly a bird in a gil - ded cage,

Dm Em / [G7 G7] G7 / G7 C / / C7 / A beau- ti - ful sight to see,

[C7 C7] F / F G7 F F C / C C / You may think she's hap-py and free from care,

C Am / [D7 D7] D7 / D7 G7 / / //
She's not, though she seems to be,

G7 C/[B7 C] C/ [G7 C] Dm/Dm Dm/ 'Tis sad when you think of her was -ted life,

Dm Em / [G7 G7] G7 / G7 C / / C7 / For youth can-not mate with age,

[C7 C7] F G7 F G7 / [F F] C / C C / And her beau-ty was sold For an old man's gold,

[C E7] D7 G D7 G7 / G7 C / / / She's a bird in a gil - ded cage.

# Silver Threads Among the Gold (2)

G//C G G D7 D7 G///G/// Dar-ling, I am grow-ing old -,

D7 // C D7 D7 D7 D7 G / / / / / Sil - ver threads a - mong the gold.

G//CGGGD7D7G///G/// Shine up-on my brow to - day -,

D7 // C D7 D7 G D7 G //////
Life is fad-ing fast a - way.

D7 // C D7 D7 C D7 G // G G // But, my dar-ling, you will be, will be,

A7 // A7 A7 A7 G A7 D7 // // // Al - ways young and fair to me,

G//C G G D7 D7 G///G///
Yes, my dar-ling, you will be -,

D7 // C D7 D7 G D7 G // // // Al - ways young and fair to me.

D7 // C D7 D7 C D7 G // G G // / Dar - ling, I am grow-ing, grow-ing old,

A7 // A7 A7 A7 G A7 D7 // // // Sil - ver threads a - mong the gold,

G// C G G D7 D7 G///G/// Shine up-on my brow to - day -,

D7 // C D7 D7 G D7 G //////
Life is fad-ing fast a - way.



# On the Banks of the Wabash (2)

G D7 G [/ Gm] G [/G] B7 [/B7] B7 [/B7] Em Em E7 / Am / Oh the moon-light's fair to-night a - long the Wa-bash

Am Am A7 [/ G] A7 [/ A7] D [/ A7] D A7 D7 ///// From the fields there comes the breath of new-mown hay.

G D7 G [/ Gm] G [/ G] B7 [/B7] B7 [/ B7] Em Em E7 / Am / Through the syc-a - mores, the can-dle lights are gleam-ing,

D7 A7 D7 / D7 A7 D7 Am D7 [/ D7] G G A7 D7 G / On the banks of the Wa-bash, far a - way. (So far a - way.)

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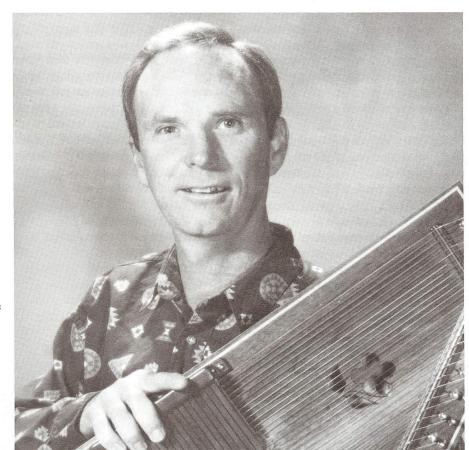
# Interaction

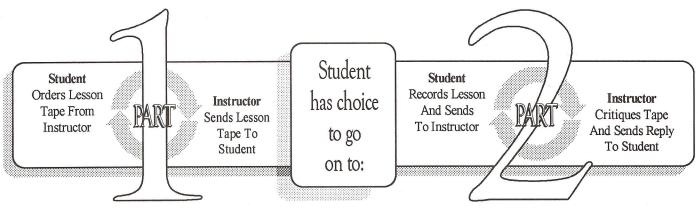


# You Are Invited To Participate In An Interactive Lesson With JOHN HOLLANDSWORTH

native of southwest Virginia,
John Hollandsworth has been
developing his own autoharp
style since childhood. His repertoire includes, but is not limited to, traditional
Appalachian, old-time, and Celtic music.
Since the early 1980s, John has been performing, competing, and leading workshops with the autoharp. He has been popular as a clinician and performer in events
from California to North Carolina and,
most recently, in Wisconsin. John has
also competed in many autoharp contests
successfully and was the first Mountain
Laurel Autoharp Champion in 1991.

He and his wife Kathie most often perform together, he on autoharp and she on string bass, hammered dulcimer, and vocals. Together they have produced three recordings, one with their old-time band, "Mountain Fling."





Are you interested in becoming an Interaction instructor? We'd like to hear from you.

For information, contact Ivan Stiles: 1585 State Road, Phoenixville, PA 19460 • 610 935-9062 • pickeringbend@worldlynx.net

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Send \$8 to the instructor for a tape of the lesson including the instructor's rendition of the tune. Make check payable to the instructor. Then decide if you want to go on to

## Part Two

Record your rendition of the lesson on the reverse side of the tape along with any questions, and return it to the instructor with an additional check for \$8. The instructor will listen to your recording and following it will critique your playing, answer your questions and, if necessary, demonstrate the lesson further. The instructor will mail the tape back to you. You will receive your personalized reply in 3 to 4 weeks.

# THE INTERACTION LESSON "WHEN PINCHING GETS BORING —

The object of this lesson is to have you think of melody playing in a new way. One of the most difficult things for autoharp players to do is to break the mold of "pinch-pinch-pinch" all the time. If a song is very notey, we basically have two options: Play it slowly enough to be able to use all pinches, or try to force ourselves to learn a new picking technique in order to get all the notes in.

First let's look at what we have to work with – five fingers. You may or may not use picks on all your fingers. I use a thumb pick and 2 finger picks. Some folks use 3 or 4 finger picks, giving them even more options. I use the thumb pick in both forward and backward directions, so this gives me 2 options with one finger. The picking area on most thumb picks is straight, so they work well in either direction, unlike the curved finger picks. So in my examples, I'll give you some simple options that I might use when thinking of varying a tune. You can adjust these options according to the number and kinds of picks you use.

When learning a new tune, I try to break it down to its simplest form (mostly pinches and rests). I play the tune over and over until I can play it with very few, if any, mistakes. This lesson begins at the point when the tune becomes boring and you want to go on to something else! Our goal is to try to play the tune a different way every time so that our playing can become more fun for us and for the listener. In order to play a lot of tunes in many different ways, we have to develop a "bank of licks." This is not a new idea: most good players, on whatever instrument, do this. One of the tricks of good playing is to have a large bank of licks to draw from and to know how to insert them into a phrase at just the right time to grab the listeners' attention.

# Break The Mold"

John Hollandsworth 700 Tower Road Christiansburg, VA 24073 540-382-6550

In this lesson the tune is not important; it could be any tune you play. The important thing is to learn a fairly simple, moderately paced tune well enough so that you can work with it. I used "The Willow Garden" because it's easy and fairly slow, yet has some interesting chord progressions.

In the written music, I have used mainly pinches but have inserted some rhythmic variation into some phrases. In addition, I will show you 2 examples of other ways to vary the first line, and some different fingerings to try. First, though, learn to play the basic melody clearly.

Next, try to think not of notes, but of rhythms. Instead of counting a simple "1-2-3," you might say "1, 2, and-a 3," or "1, 2-a, 3-a," or "1-a, 2-a, 3-a." You decide. I find the easiest way to get a new rhythm in my head is to tap it out with my hands on my thighs while thinking or humming the tune. This gets the rhythm into your physical body and makes it easier to remember. After you do this for awhile, it's not as hard to transfer this new rhythm to your harp.

Now try Example 1 (see below) for the first line of *Down in the Willow Garden*. First play it with all muted strings (holding down 3 or 4 bars) so you know you have the rhythm right before you complicate it with notes.

Fingerings you could use for this example include:

P T-1 2 P T-B 2
P T-1 T P T-2 1
P T-2 T
(See tab key next page)

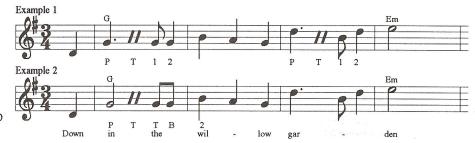
You will find that some of the fingerings work better than others, and that's why I've given you several options. This might depend on what comes immediately before and after the phrase you're playing. When I learn a new rhythm pattern, I try to find all the places in the tune where I can use it. Of course, you wouldn't really want to play the same pattern in every place, but this lets you know what your options are. After you learn some varied rhythm patterns for the first line, try to apply them to similar places in the rest of the tune.

Now move to the next example (see below) and try it using all the different fingerings. Then play it as many times as you can in the tune.

Possible fingerings:

		T-B		P	T	T-1	2	
P	T	T-2	1	P	T	T-1	T	
P	T	T-2	T					

(I've included the next quarter note be-



cause when coming off the two fast notes it's important to know where you "land.")

At this point you should begin to feel like you have some options when playing this tune: 2 or 3 rhythm patterns, 3 or 4 fingerings for each pattern, plus pinches and strums. You can also come up with your own more complicated rhythm patterns, staying within the rhythmic framework and style of the tune. Now all you have to do is pick and choose among your options when playing the tune. You should be able to play it 3 or 4 times and vary it slightly each time. *This is the* 

point of the lesson: training <u>your</u> ear to vary <u>your</u> playing by drawing from <u>your</u> <u>own</u> options.

Notice that this tune is in 3/4 time. Melodies that are in 2/4 or 4/4 time will offer new rhythm patterns and new fingerings (more options). You will find that licks that work for *Down in the Willow Garden* might work in other songs; they also might not work exactly, but could work if you slightly change this or that. After playing different tunes and trying new things, you will soon develop your own "bank" and break into more exciting playing!

## KEY FOR TAB:

P = pinch

T = thumb (from high to low strings)

B = back thumb (from low to high strings)

1 = index

2 = middle

(T and B are for short strokes targeting a single note. I haven't used "strums" in my examples, which would be longer strokes covering several strings.)





I stabbed her with a dagger, which was a bloody knife.

I threw her in the water, which was a pitiful sight.

My father often told me that money would set me free,

If I would murder that dear little girl whose name was Rose Connally.

Now my father stands in his own cottage door, with a teardrop in his eye, A-thinking about his only son who's on the gallows high.

My race is run beneath the sun, and the devil is waiting for me,
For I have murdered that dear little girl whose name is Rose Connally.

# THE AUTOHARP HALL OF FAME MEMBERS



# POSTHUMOUS

1992
Maybelle Addington Carter
John Kilby Snow
1993
Sara Dougherty Carter
1994
Ernest Van "Pop" Stoneman
1995
Marty Schuman
1996
Glen R. Peterson

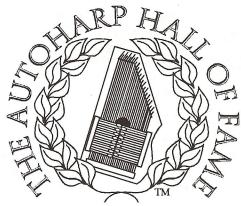
# CONTEMPORARY

1993
Bryan Benson Bowers
1994
Mike Seeger
1995
Meg Peterson
1996
Becky Blackley

# LAST CHANCE

FOR YOUR 1997 AUTOHARP HALL OF FAME NOMINATION.

> DEADLINE: MAY 1, 1997



# 1997 NOMINATION FORM

Nominations for the 1997 inductees into The Autoharp Hall of Fame will be accepted by Limberjack Productions from September 1, 1996 until May 1, 1997. Nominees should have had a significant, long-standing, positive impact on the autoharp community. Any individual wishing to submit nominations may do so by completing this form. Copies of this form are permissible. Names may be submitted for one posthumous and one contemporary nomination. Posthumous honorees must have been deceased for three years to be eligible.

The honorees will be selected by a panel composed of knowledgeable autoharp musicians and enthusiasts, who are

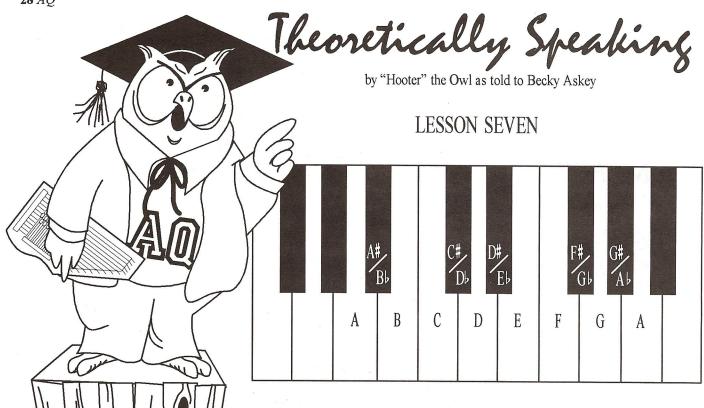
proficient in autoharp history. Envelopes must contain nominations only, and should be addressed to: The Autoharp Hall of Fame, PO Box A, Newport PA, 17074. These envelopes shall be forwarded, unopened, to the panel. Limberjack Productions shall be informed of the decision of the panel by the third week of May, 1997. The honorees shall be installed into the Hall of Fame at the 1997 Mountain Laurel Autoharp Gathering, and announced in the Summer 1997 issue of Autoharp Quarterly. When describing a nominee's contributions, specify the significance of those contributions, and the nominee's leadership role in the autoharp community.

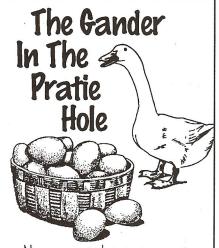
POSTHUMOUS NOMINEE

Name of nominee:	
Use a separate piece of paper for t tributions, and/or leadership in th	he required description of achievement, con- e autoharp community.
CONTEM	IPORARY NOMINEE
Name of nominee::	
Use a separate piece of paper for t tributions, and/or leadership in th	the required description of achievement, con- e autoharp community.
Name, address, telephone number oj	f person submitting nomination:
NAME	TELEPHONE
ADDRESS	
CITY, STATE, ZIP	<u> </u>
I am an AQ subscriber.	I am not an AQ subscriber. I received my ballot from:
NAME	

# **IMPORTANT**

Form must be filled in completely and a <u>description of achievement, contributions, and/or leadership in the autoharp community, must</u> be completed to validate the nomination. You may submit your nomination for posthumous, contemporary, or both.





Now you can have your own goose in your potato cellar with this new cassette release of Celtic dance music by Mike Herr and Carlos Plumley. \$10 per cassette plus \$2 shipping/handling. Available from

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Have you done your homework? Don't lie! I know a lot of you didn't, but, for those good boys and girls who did, you discovered that the relative minor of F is D minor and the relative minor for B is G minor. The Harmonic minor scales would be: Dm - D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D. G - G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G. That makes your Dm chord D, F, and A; and your Gm chord G, Bb, and D.

If you had no trouble with these, go ahead and find the relative minors for the keys of Eb, Ab, and Db. Just be aware that when you raise the 7th tone on these scales, you will be raising a flat (b) which makes it a natural. For instance, the 6th tone in the key of E is C; so your relative minor for Eb will be C minor. Your scale will be: C, D, Eb, F, G, Ab, B natural, and C. Well, shoot. I did one for you, so now you have to do the relative minors for Ab, Db, Gb, and Cb. So there. I'll teach you to trifle with me!

Recently, I had to give a theory test to 18 young people auditioning for a musical organization. They had to know all their major scales and relative minors and I'm sure they were glad their teachers insisted that they learn how to do them. Not like some people I know who fuss and whine.

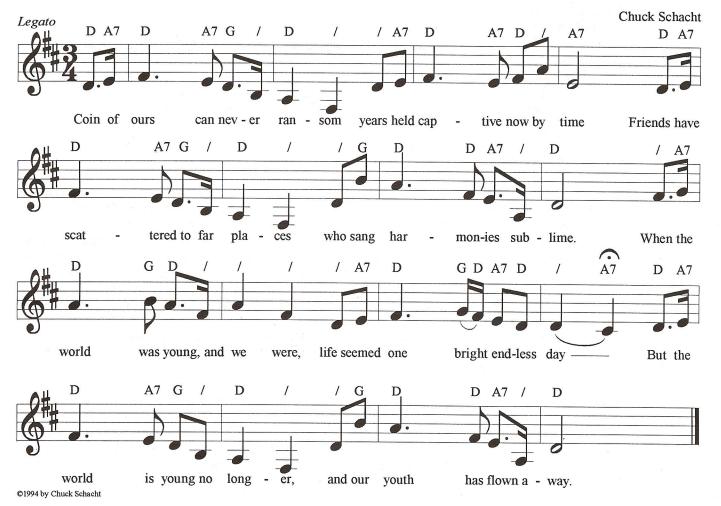
Haven't you ever wondered why certain chords are grouped on your autoharps? (Well, a couple of my autoharps

had very strange groupings so I changed them to suit myself.) Anyhow, each scale, or key, has certain groupings of chords. We talk all the time about the I, VI, V chords and basically we know what they are, but actually what are they? Well, they are the three chords in each scale that are Major chords. For instance, in the key of C, if you would construct a chord on each note of the C scale, you would have these chords: C Major, D minor, E minor, F Major, G Major, A minor, B diminished, and back to C Major to complete it. Now, look at the 1st chord, the 4th chord, and the 5th chord. They are all major chords. That's what the I, VI, V chords are in each key, the major chords. And number 5 (V) is the one that is constructed as a 7th chord. We'll get into 7ths later.

How did I figure out all the chords in the scale? Well, for those of you who are truly curious, I will show you... next time. Until then, finish your relative minor scales. Your brain will positively burst with this new found knowledge. (Just don't be standing at the salad bar when it does. They frown on that.)



# Coin of Ours



- 2. We who were not far from childhood
  Now have children nearly grown.
  And the lines around our eyes
  Reflect the sorrow that we've known.
  But the grief has been no stranger,
  We've known love and laughter too,
  And at each step of the journey
  There've been friends whose hearts were true.
- 3. And there's always been the singing, Whether times were hard or sweet, Songs of joy and celebration, Songs which helped us bear defeat. May those songs we share sustain us, 'Til we sing forever more 'Round the campfires which blaze brightly On that distant heavenly shore.





by Stew Schneider

# Harpin' Upa Holler on Keyes Creek

I was sitting on the porch, watching the sun go down behind the hills sheltering Keyes Creek, as it has done every time I've troubled myself to examine the phenomenon, when the chime on my computer announced some e-mail. Well, actually, the e-mail was from Mary Lou, and the computer doesn't chime on her mail—rather, it delivers itself in a sort of martial fanfare that always makes me want to salute.

In her note, between some wretched puns, the harmful effects of which I shall shelter from your sensibilities, M. Lou proposed that I write a short piece titled "My

Autoharp uarterly.

# COVER PHOTO CONTEST

Get your cameras out, folks. You could have your best picture chosen for the cover of Autoharp Quarterly. And, win a year's subscription to boot!

Your submission must be autoharp-related. You with your autoharp – your pet with your autoharp – or anything else as long as the autoharp is an important feature of the photo. After all, this is an autoharp magazine!

Send your non-returnable photo(s) to:

LIMBERJACK PRODUCTIONS PO BOX A NEWPORT, PA 17074

Contest is limited to subscribers of AQ only.

Life as a Cyberplucker," to be published in AQ at my customary current rate of pay, which approaches zero closely enough to make no odds.

No small assignment, this, requiring explanation of exotica such as "e-mail," and "lists," and, not leastly, "Cyberpluckers." Attend closely, and we shall attempt an explanation.

Cyberpluckers is the name of an e-mail list existing in cyberspace, and devoted to autoharps. As definitions go, that one is a dandy. We might better break it into smaller pieces.

"E-mail" is electronic mail, or mail that flows, by virtue of mysterious forces beyond human comprehension, over the phone lines from computer to computer. Using e-mail, folks can communicate with each other without the delays resulting from searching up paper and pencil and perhaps thinking about what is to be written. Thoughts but recently formed in the brain of the sender can be instantly transmitted to anyone on the net. Whether or not this is a good idea is left as an exercise for the reader.

An "e-mail list" is a bunch of people, all of whom receive the same mail. In other words, if Mary Lou is particularly exercised about a trademark, or lack thereof, she can post her thoughts to the list, and everyone on the list gets a copy. E-mail lists are a happy method of easily disseminating information to a group, but are susceptible to two abuses: mistaken addressing and "spamming."

Mistaken addressing happens most often when two list members fall in love and mistakenly post notes declaring their passion to the list instead of to the individual beloved's e-mail address, thus sharing their intimate moment with everyone on the list. Such errors in addressing, which still happen to this day, (although never to

me personally) provoke considerable guffaws and shouts of "Oh you kid," and "Pshaw," and other good natured joshing from the other list members. (Since some lists have thousands of subscribers, many of whom did not care to know where Snookums has her birthmark, there truthfully can be quite a bit of joshing before things settle down again after such an incident, which gives the erring member quite a bit of time to savor the error.)

"Spamming" happens when someone deliberately posts a message to many, many lists. The message very well may contain material not necessarily of interest to the readers of that list. If you are subscribed to a list dedicated to the growing of zinnias, you might not be pleased to receive a note advising you of the availability of a diatribe on the second coming of the great prophet Zagra.

Nonetheless, lists proliferate all over the net – genealogy lists, bluegrass lists, stamp collecting lists, lists of copyrighted tunes, and there's one list about autoharps. For better or worse, that list is named "Cyberpluckers," and I are one.

Such an admission has been known to drop grown men to their knees in paroxysms. Following Bryan Bowers' performance at the West Virginia Cultural Center, the mere mention of the word "Cyberpluckers" doubled Mike Herr up to such an degree as to cause those there assembled to fear for his health.

And yet, I maintain that an e-mail list makes the best of good sense for players of an instrument so dilutely distributed as are autoharps. Guitar players can swap licks on the back porch. Banjo pickers can jam in the barn. Autoharpists, gentle souls, must resort to high tech trickery or long distance travel if they are ever to move beyond *Wildwood Flower* pinched out in deliberate 4/4.

So...what sorts of things get done on Cyberpluckers? After all, one cannot very well play an autoharp over the Internet. (Well, actually, one *can* play an autoharp over the Internet. There's a cyberharp out there. Click on one of its buttons, and, in 15 seconds or so, a strum in the chord appears on your speaker. (I'm hoping to finish *Wreck of the Old 97* by next Tuesday.)

Cyberpluckers is a wonderful resource of information about the healthy autoharp, about musical theory, miking, and performance. It's a place where folks who care for this infuriating instrument

Cyberpluckers is a wonderful resource of information about the healthy autoharp, about musical theory, miking, and performance.

can meet to discuss their latest frustrations, and the ways they found around them. In addition, we found that we could record bits of playing and trade musical snippets privately as well. It's like having a better player come visit you, but you don't have to feed them, and they don't sneeze all over your cat.

Since much of the information is of use to more than one person, and should be available to new folks, Cathy Britell and Lindsay Haisley put up The Autoharp Page, containing performers' schedules, lists of recordings, publications, and festivals, advice on buying a 'harp and getting started on it, and, most importantly, The Rogue's Gallery, where bios of the most important 'harpers in the free world are available. This is serious stuff. Stop snickering.

If you have a computer with a connection to the Internet, and know what a "URL" is, point your browser to http://autoharp.org/harppage/ and you'll find a wealth of information, attractively presented. If you don't know what a URL is...uh....go ask Lindsay. He knows all about that stuff.

If you like what you see on The Autoharp Page drop a note to:

majordomo@autoharp.org saying: subscribe cyberpluckers

I think you'll have a ball. Me? I'm goin' back out on the porch and watch Keyes Creek roll on down to the Ohio 'til Mary Lou lights up my computer again.

# Janette Carter

Living with



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- Janette Carter

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# **EXPLORE THE** AUTOHARP ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

# VISIT THESE SITES OF INTEREST TO THE **AUTOHARP ENTHUSIAST**

# INFORMATIVE

# **Autoharp Information**

http://www.rogo.com/folkstuff/autoharp.html Features: autoharp information

# The Autoharp Page

http://www.autoharp.org/harppage/ Features: WWW site for autoharp artists' schedules, recordings, festivals, clubs and jams, tune repository; articles about getting started with the autoharp, buying an autoharp; Cyberplucker information - how to join the Cyberpluckers, a group of autoharp enthusiasts on the net; links to the Castle of the Flying Mouse and other autoharp information on the net

# John and Sharon Skyard

http://www.cris.com/~Skaryd/ Features: many things listed for the mucian with the main interest in Michigan, but helps with other areas as well. Includes more WWW site addresses

# MUSIC

# Henrick's Traditional Tunes and Songs

http://www.geocities.com/BourbonStreet/ 1789/tunes.htm

Features: words to several songs, most tunes in printed music form

# The Tune Web

http://www.ece.ucdavis.edu/~darsie// tunebook.html

Features: WWW tune book. A fine collection of primarily Celtic tunes, including other types. All in printed music form, often with words and chords

# **Public Domain Music**

http://nel.bright.net/pdinfo/pdm2/ Features: a list of 3,000 tunes/songs in public domain

Digital Tradition Folk Song Data Base http://www.deltablues.com/dbsearch.html Features: the world's biggest available folksong collection. A list of 6,000 songs. Words included. Also included, Mudcat Discussion, where you can ask a discussion group about the words to any song

# Index of Cowpie/Cowpie-Songs

http://www.roughstock.com/cowpie/ cowpie-songs/

Features: country songs from Carter and Rodgers to Snow and Acuff to Cash, Cline, and many, many more; words and chords included

# Irish Folk Songs (And Others)

http://www.cs.hut.fi/~zaphod/search/ Features: Irish folk songs plus others -Battle Hymn, Mountain Dew, etc. words included

# FESTIVALS & MAJOR WORKSHOPS

John C. Campbell Folk School http://www.grove.net/~jccfs/

## **Festival Finder**

http://www.festivalfinder.com/folk/folk.html

# **Mountain Laurel Autoharp Gathering** http://weber.u.washington.edu/~britell/ml.html

Walnut Valley Festival

# http://www.southwind.net:80/walnut-valley/

# Willamette Valley Autoharp Gathering http://weber.u.washington.edu/~britell/wvag.html

# **AUTOHARP LUTHIERS** AND MANUFACTURERS

# ZephyrHill Autoharps

http://members.aol.com/fackeldey/ zephyrhill.html

Features: hand-crafted autoharps by Mark Fackeldey; description of the Zephyrhill 'harp – materials, finishes, set-up.

# **Orthey Instruments**

http://www.fmp.com/orthey Features: hand-crafted autoharps; history of Orthey Instruments; description and prices of current 'harps available.

# **Oscar Schmidt International**

http://www.washburn.com Features: autoharps and accessories. Other instruments included

# **AUTOHARP MERCHANTS** AND KITS

# Andy's Front Hall

http://members.aol.com/fennig/ index.html Features: e-mail link for autoharps and accessories

# **Back Porch Music**

http://www.BackPorchMusic.com/ Features: Backporch Music sellers with Oscar Schmidt page

# **Elderly Instruments**

http://www.msen.com/~elderly/welcome.htm Features: retailer of new and used instruments, buying and trading of vintage instruments; books, recordings, accessories

# Lark in the Morning

http://www.mhs.mendocino.k12.ca.us/ MenComNet/Business/Retail/Larknet/ larkhp.html

Features: collection of unusual and new instruments for sale

## **Music Makers Kits**

http://www.primenet.com./~musikit/ Features: instrument and kits for sale, including the autochord (autoharp)

# GENERALMUSIC-ORIENTED SALES

## Fret 'n Fiddle

http://www.citynet.net/fretnfiddle/ Features: dealers of vintage, new, used stringed instruments. Experience in buying, selling, appraising, as a service to the musician

## **Music Stores On-Line**

http://www.musicstores.com
Features: searchable National Directory
Of Music Stores and Music Instrument
Manufacturers; extensive library of related
links; virtual lessons from internationally
known artists (in development); vintage/
rare parts locator; musicians classified;
industry events calendar

# **Note-Ably Yours**

http://members.aol.com/wplanet/ny.htm Features: international catalog source for Celtic, Folk, Traditional, Native American, New Age and Ethnic music and books; recordings of autoharps and other instruments

# **PERSONALITIES**

# **Evo Bluestein**

http://www.cybergate.com/~witsend Features: Evo's venues, music lessons, Bluestein Family recordings, etc.

# Roz Brown

http://www.hcds.net/~amtronp/rozb/ Features: Roz's venues, recordings, music styles, etc.

# Harvey Reid

http://www.woodpecker.com/ concert-schedule.html Features: Harvey's concert and record reviews, catalog of recordings, career history, venues, etc.

## Southern Folklife Collection

http://ils.unc.edu/barba/sfc.html Features: Carters, Doc Watson, etc.

# **PUBLICATIONS**

# **Dirty Linen**

http://www.dirtynelson/linen/dirty.html *Features:* if you're interested in worldwide festivals, or want to know the future schedules of a favorite performer, e.g. or

simply want to know what festivals are scheduled for your area in the next year, this is a site not to be missed ftp://ftp.cac.psu.edu/pub/folk\_music/dirty\_linen/events.list

This address will take you to future events listed in *Dirty Linen* 

# Bluegrass Unlimited; Sing Out!

http://www.magamall.com/mag/magazine.htm Features: many magazines with web sites are listed on this page other than just music/sound periodicals. You are told what is covered in each magazine, subscription rates, when published, etc.

# OTHER WEB SITES OF INTEREST

# **ASCAP**

http://www.ascap.com/ Features: search for titles, publishers, songwriters associated with ASCAP. http://www.ascap.com/about/where-isascap.html

Features: membership information

## **BMI**

http://bmi.com/

Features: search for titles, publishers, songwriters associated with BMI. For more information, visit: http://bmi.com/repertoire/

# The Copyright Clearance Center

http://www.copyright.com/ Features: points writers and publishers in the right direction. For membership information: http://www.ascap.com/about/where-isascap.html

Registration required, but information is available to nonregistered visitors. Also: http://www.copyright.com/about\_ccc/gfaqs.html#address

# The Copyright Website

http://www.benedict.com/
Features: real world, practical, and relevent copyright information

# **Egghead**

http://www.egghead.com/
Features: retailer of personal computer software and accessories

# Folk Alliance

http://www.hidwater.com/nefa/ Features: become a member of the Alliance. Info about that organization's events, etc.

# Folk Stuff

http://www.rogo.com/folkstuff

Features: info concerning publications, pages for instruments, etc.

# Kathode Ray Music

http://kathoderay.org/main/ Features: if you have a web page, this address will give you the opportunity to play your music on radio. It also expounds a sort of music philosophy, and carries a gamut of ways to sell your music. Warning! This page is not children-friendly

# Harry Fox Agency

http://www.nmpa.org/hfa.html Features: information on agency services and licensing. HFA song list and on-line services

# The Library of Congress

http://lcweb.loc.gov/homepage/lchp.html http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/ ch1.html

Features: Copyright Law http://lcweb.loc.gov/copyright/
Features: The Library of Congress Copyright/

right homepage. This is the place to go to get copyright forms, etc.

# Maps

http://www.mapblast.com/mapblast/locator.html

Features: Find a friend's home location if they live in a city/town. Not complete, but may be helpful

# Switchboard

http://www2.switchboard.com/ Features: Find your friend's address, phone number. Not complete, but may be helpful

# **World-Wide Yellow Pages**

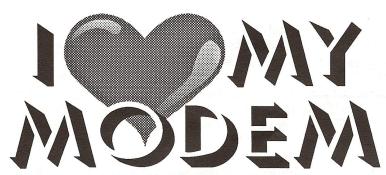
http://www.yellow.com/
Features: Find many businesses in the yellow pages. Not complete, but may be helpful

# Winfield Winners – Autoharp

http://homepage.midusa.net/~shorock/wv/autoharp.htm







This is a partial list of 'harpers on the net plus a few addresses you might find handy. We will publish this list from time to time. If you would like to have your e-mail address included, please let us know at autoharp@pa.net.

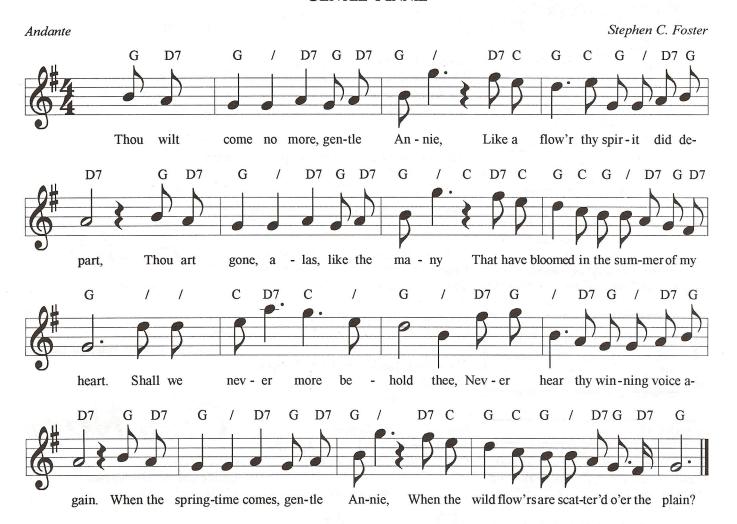
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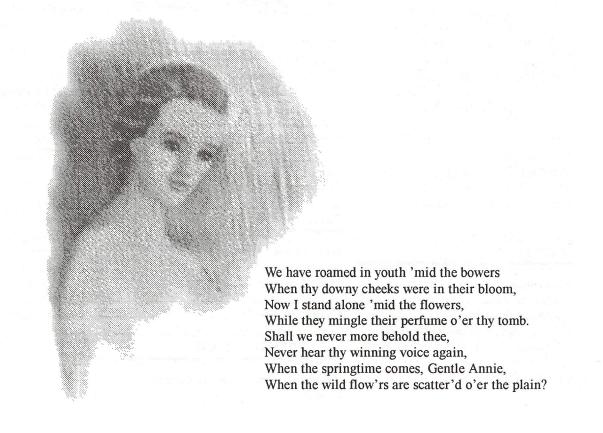
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# GENTLE ANNIE





# Autobary Events

Events Editors: George and Dorothy Wagner 155 N. Harbor Drive #1102 Chicago, IL 60601-7318

The following are major fall/winter events which feature the autoharp in contest, workshop, and/or performance. If you know of a major event we have not included, please send the information to the Events editors. The annual events list is published every Spring, and seasonally repeated and updated in every issue.

	CODE:	
AC	Autoharp Contest	
AP	Autoharp Performance	
ΔW	Autoharn Workshop	

# **FEBRUARY**

Blue River Sound Winter Bluegrass Festival, February 8; Durant, OK; Code: AC (Laurie Sky); c/o 615 859-1419

29th Annual Kent State Folk Festival; February 9-11; Kent State University Student Center, Campus Center Drive, Kent, OH; Code: AP AW (Bill Schilling); c/o David McElroy, ACPB Box 1, Office of Campus Life, Kent State University, Kent, OH 44242 216 672-2338 FAX 216 672-2517

Winter Festival of Acoustic Music; February 7, 8; Plymouth Park United Methodist Church, Irving, TX; Code: AP AW; (Charles Whitmer, Nathan Sarvis); 1114 Vine St., Denton, TX 76201 817 387-4001

# **MARCH**

Stringalong Weekend; March 7-9; Edwards Conference Center, N 8901 Army Lake Road, East Troy, WI; Code: AP AW (Ann Schmid); c/o Ann Schmid, UWM Folk Center, Fine Arts-UWM, PO Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201 800 636-FOLK

Evo Bluestein – Beginning Autoharp Workshop; March 8, all day; California State Hayward Extended Education; registration: 510 885-3605

Sonoma County Folk Festival; March 7-9; Luther Burbank Center, Santa Rosa, CA; Code: AC AW (Bryan Bowers, Fuey Herring); c/o Betty Nudleman 707 838-4857

Colorado Academy Music Camp; March 17-22; Denver CO; Code: AW (Julie Davis); c/o 303 258-3444

# APRIL

16th Annual Florida Old Time Music Championship; April 4-5; 23 Sertoma Youth Ranch, Dade City, FL, Code: AC; c/o Jim Strickland, 1848 Thistle Court, Wesley Chapel, FL 33543 813 991-4774

Piney Park Jamboree; April 12; Elizabeth, LA; Code: AC (Laurie Sky); c/o 615 859-1419

New Jersey Folk Festival; April 26; New Brunswick, NJ; Code: AC AW (Lucille Reilly); c/o 908-604-9743



Recordings and Books Editor: Mary Ann Johnston RD3, Box 190-A New Cumberland, WV 26047

If you know of a new or re-released recording which contains at least 50% autoharp, or autoharp book, please send the information to the Recordings and Books Editor. It will be listed here.

# FEATURES AUTOHARP

Keeping with Tradition

Autoharp: Donnie Weaver DeBusk-Weaver Family 5103 Media Road Oxford, PA 19363

# **INCLUDES AUTOHARP**

The Lewis Family Live and Pickin' (Video)

Autoharp: Little Roy Lewis New Day Christian Distributors 126 Shivel Drive Hendersonville, TN 37075

Handmade Harmony

The Lewis Family

Autoharp: Little Roy Lewis
See address above.

**Repeat Offenders** 

Autoharp: Pat McIntire Stewed Mulligan Rt. 1, Box 48 Center Point, WV 26339



**Appalachian Autoharp** 

Carol Stober
Box 1275
Talladega, AL 35161
Published by Mel Bay Publications, Inc.

# Club News

Clubs Editors: George and Dorothy Wagner 155 N. Harbor Drive #1102 Chicago, IL 60601-7318

The Annual Club Directory is published every year in the Winter issue. If you belong to an autoharp club or one where the autoharp player is welcome which was not included in our winter listing, please send the information to the Clubs Editors. We also welcome club news.

# **NEW CLUBS**

Pikes Peak Harpers

Every Tues. 7:00 - 9:00 PM 12:30 - 4:30 PM 1627 Wynkoop Drive Colorado Springs, CO c/o Bob Bernard address above 719 596-3060 or Maeta Goodwin 719 573-8890 FAX 719 548-4525 goodwimi@fotf.org

# Picker's Portrait

# Maurice Dill Evansville, Indiana



Long before my retirement from Bristol-Myers Pharmaceutical Corporation, where I was a design engineer for thirty-three years, I attended various annual bluegrass festivals. During these years, I developed a yearning for the aptitude and talent that would enable me to participate as a player instead of a listener. Having played clarinet, saxophone, and oboe seriously in high school in the early 40s, I mistakenly felt years later that it probably was not possible for a wind instrument player, like me, to ever become even barely proficient on a string instrument.

However, after retirement I became interested in playing the mountain dulcimer, and became active in the local dulcimer club, participating in their frequent performance "gigs," even periodically playing penny whistle and spoons. My first real contact with the autoharp came while attending a dulcimer workshop at the Ozark Folk Center in Mountain View, Arkansas. I became eager to try my hand at simple strums on the little 15-chord ChromAharp I had purchased used, at the Folk Center's music store. Drew Smith's autoharp course was my first year's foundation learning experience, along with a lot of individual helps and suggestions from people like Ron Wall, Ivan Stiles, Drew Smith, Eileen Roys, etc. Regular reading of Autoharp Quarterly and other publications has also been of enormous value.

The annual "Autoharp Jamboree" at the Ozark Folk Center, with their capable facilities acquainted me with the possibilities of the diatonic autoharp. I began acquiring and converting used autoharps, both for my own use, and to sell to other players who wanted to "go" diatonic. As my proficiency improved, I was asked to join the "Garson Lowry Country-Bluegrass Band," a solid and popular group for 25 years in the southwestern part of Indiana.

Currently known as the "Hoosier Harper," I teamed up with a guitarist friend, Bryan Hill, as "Folkstyle Duo," and for the last three years, we have entertained many groups, clubs, organizations, churches, and nursing homes. At such programs, I always tell the history of the autoharp, and its impact on the American music culture.

My 'harp conversions have been sold to 'harpists in many areas of the country, including two diatonics to the German sales representative in Hamburg of the Hopf Company, the maker of autoharps and zithers in Europe. My conversions have been played in the "Berlin Dome" for evangelistic services for thousands of youth.

I currently own and play two Fladmark double diatonic Gospel model 'harps, and an Orthey Dulci-Harp, which I converted to a ten-bar G-D double diatonic. Recently, after searching for three years, I acquired two older model 73 Oscar Schmidt black body autoharps, which required almost complete rebuilding. After equipping them with fine tuners, magnetic pickups, a 37th string, and setting them up

as two-key diatonics, I find them excellent instruments with the brilliance needed for melody and solo breaks with group playing as well as strictly solo work.

My style of melody playing could best be described as "pinch-pluck" with occasional use of "open chording" when playing slower solo pieces. At my present confidence level, faster bluegrass-style playing requires conventional chord bar operation for both rhythm and solo breaks, despite the known advantages of "open chord" playing.

Everywhere I play, there are usually folks in the audience who comment about their pleasant memories of the autoharp playing of Maybelle Carter, "Pop" Stoneman, and others. I feel honored, and fortunate to be able to evoke such pleasant recalls of those bygone autoharp "giants" of the American Folk Music Scene. Playing the autoharp, and enjoying its melodious sounds has become a regular part of my retirement, which I hope God will allow for a long while, and am grateful to him. I am also grateful to many acquaintances in the autoharp community who have contributed to the ever-expanding knowledge and development of our instrument. May it continue. \*





# AQ Postscripts

Do you have some news to share with the autoharp community? Send it to: Mary Umbarger 144 Umbarger Road Harmony, NC 28634

- And a happy 1997 to ya! Oh, it's a happy 'harper I am with St. Patrick's Day a'comin' - not to mention St. Valentine's Day - and, of course, our annual Groundhog Jam on February 1! (Come on in if you're in the Harmony area.)

Begorra it looks like much is happenin' with the folks in Harpland!

P.S.

Joyce and Gene Hedstrom from Courtland, Kansas celebrated their 40th Anniversary! Congratulations! (Paul and I were married 44 years in December. Saints preserve us, that's a long time!) **D.S.** 

Lots of performances, a new recording, and house renovations have kept Carol and Dick Spicer busy this year. Their son, Richard, who graduated cum laude in '96 from CMU is getting married in July. Carol is sewing the dresses for the affair. Michigan is humming!

D.S.

Speaking of busy, **Dora Miller** surely hasn't let any of the ol' provincial grass grow underfoot, either! She's a member of the "Jasper County Chorus." This group, endorsed by the Iowa Sesquicentennial Committee, was a part of over 100 activities celebrating that state's 150th anniversary. The highlight of the year for the chorus was a 90 minute performance at the Living History Farm of Iowa. Dora sent a picture of the group decked out in beautiful 1846 finery, and there Dora sits very primly - holding her autoharp! Good going, Dora! Homespun Harmony also was part of this celebration with a twohour segment at the Farm.

P.S.

Linda Huber and a friend took a wonderful trip North. They mixed business with pleasure, taking time for sight seeing. Linda says she played her 'harp wherever she happened to be. What a treat that was for the Alaskans! P.S.

The really, or should I say "Reilly" big news in the "cupid department" is the upcoming wedding (March) of autoharpers Lucille Reilly and Steve Hinds! Godspeed to you and your happy life together! Lucille sent me a newspaper clipping reporting a march on City Hall in Millington, New Jersey. The City Fathers wanted to make it hard – or impossible for folk musicians to play for hire in restaurants and other public places. Lucille was most vocal and spoke with authority as a champion autoharp/dulcimer player against this proposed ordinance. Way to go!

DS It has been an unusual winter in the Great Northwest. Tina Louise Barr and John Gwinner witnessed a devastating flood in their hometown of Modesto, California, the likes of which they, both natives, had never seen. Cathy and Jon Britell, Mercer Island, Washington, were snowbound and without power for long periods of time. Jolene and Phillip Krausher in West Seattle thank their lucky stars that their home is in the middle of a high hill rather than on the edge, where just a few blocks from them, homes slid away with the mud. I'm happy to report all of these folks are fine. Bet those autoharps worked overtime calming nerves! And, if you saw the Modesto flood pictures on television, you will be glad to know that Rodeo, the dog which was stranded on a rooftop near Modesto was rescued.

P.S.

David Kilby ('96 Galax autoharp champion) was invited to play his 'harp on stage with Little Roy Lewis during the Lewis Family's concert in December. The concert was held in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. P.S.

Don't miss the January issue of *Blue-grass Unlimited*, pages 88-89. An article featuring the "Galax Oldtime Fiddlers' Convention" has pictures of **Drew Smith** strumming among his flamingos, and **Ronnie Burroughs**, **Gregg Averett**, and **Mary Lou Orthey** playing their 'harps at "Otter Harp Heaven."

0.5.

On his November tour, **Ivan Styles** stopped in this area and gave us a good (mostly autoharp) concert at the Arts and Science Museum. He also played his dulcimer, saw, bowed psaltery, and hurdygurdy (have mercy!). I introduced him as the "Wizard of Odd." He also performed at one of the local elementary schools. Thanks, Ivan!

P.S.

Joe Riggs has again been featured in the Charlotte Observer for his outstanding teaching abilities with ESL (English as a Second Language). Joe has written text books on the subject, and has had folks visit his classes from as far away as Russia to observe his classes at the Eastway Middle School in Charlotte. (I wonder if he's taught any other languages to his backward and upside-down autoharp?)

Will Smith promises his first AQ article, "Music in Nashville – Then and Now" soon. Will has been busy playing on recordings by Collin Raye, Alaskan folk legend Hobo Jim, and independent artist Adie Gray. The Adie Gray cut Will plays on also features Albert Lee and John Hartford.

P.S.

Mike Fenton spent the fall catching up on the garden, painting his house, writing, and learning to play the dobro. His CD, "Best of Mike Fenton," will soon be on the market.

D.S.

We are saddened to hear that **Sarah Woods** and **Marie Wells** are ill. We hope they will soon be enjoying their days in the sun again.

Bye for now. I'm hoping you are always kind and "in tune" to life. To honor the season, I leave you with this Gaelic blessing: "May those who love us, love us. And those that don't love us, May God turn their Hearts; And if He doesn't turn their Hearts, May He then turn their ankles So we'll know them by their limping."



## TAPES: \$9

# \*TITLES FEATURE AUTOHARP Autoharp Quarterly

Music from Autoharp Quarterly, Volumes One,\* Three\*

# Bryan Boyers

Jo Brennan

Strawberry Wine\*

Roz Brown

Just Kiddin' Around\*

**Bill Bryant** 

Grizzly Flat 'Harper #2\*

Janette Carter Bouquet Of Dandelions\*

**Bill Clifton** 

Autoharp Centennial Celebration\*

Country Ham with

**Judie Pagter** 

I'll Be Leaving

**Margie Earles** 

Blue Eyes & Sad Songs\*

# Carpy O Egelski Bill and Carolyn\*

Lindsa Haisley

Marys & Hammers\*

# John & Kathie Hollandsworth

Pickin' Time Over the Edge

David KUTy Anonarp Praise\*

Alan Myler De Fairhaired Boy\*

Karen Mileller Clarity\*

The Original Orehand Us to be Together

# in Heaven

Mary Lou Orthey

1863-Songs From Home\* Memories-Songs From Home\*

**Bonnie Phipps** 

Old Time Yew Age Charles (Yusic\* Anonarpin'\*

Will Smith

Across the Seven Seas\*

Jim Snow (with Kill Snow)

ier and Son\*

Mary Umbarger As You Like It

Alex U**guer** Farper's Ferry\*

Ron Wall

 $Old\ Time\ Gathering\ #1$ 

Les Gustafson-Zook
GOLD Awns on Autoharp\*
GOLD Awns en Autoharp\*
GOLD A he River\*
LEOLD Mre Traveling\*

## BOOKS

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# John Denver

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## **MISCELLANEOUS**

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# Oscar Schmidt

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# PRODUCTS/SERVICES

FINELY DETAILED HANDCRAFTED folk toys. Limber Jack, Dog, Pony, Bear, Frog, Lamb, Rooster, Unicorn and Dinosaur. \$12.95 each includes shipping. Jean's Dulcimer Shop, PO Box 8, Cosby, TN 37722

MOLESKIN FOR FINGERPICK COMFORT Line your metal fingerpicks with this comfortably-soft moleskin. 2" x 9" lines many picks. Self-adhering. \$5 postpaid. Bob Woodcock, 268 Barren Hill Rd, Conshohocken, PA 19428

UNIQUE BI-DIRECTIONAL FINGERPICKS Handmade, brass. \$6 per set (3) plus \$2 s/h. Specify lg., reg., or ex. sm. Tom Bogardus, 2309 Anderson Road, Lawrence, KS 66046. 913 749-1125

FOR SALE – HANDMADE AUTOHARP circa 1932. Made by Edward Hand of Philadelphia. Documented in the *Autoharp Book*. For display only – non-playable. \$100. Contact Ivan at 610 935-9062

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## **PUBLICATIONS**

DULCIMER PLAYERS NEWS, established in 1975, is a quarterly journal for players, builders, and enthusiasts of hammered and fretted (mountain) dulcimers. Subscriptions for 1 yr. (4 issues): US, \$18; Canada (surface), \$20; Other countries (surface), \$21. 2 yrs. (8 issues) in US, \$33. Inquire about special rate for hardship. Dulcimer Players News, PO Box 2164-AQ, Winchester, VA 22601

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