Spring 2005 Volume Seventeen, Number Three Six Dollars

Autoharp Quarterly The International Magazine Dedicated to the Autoharp Enthusiast

Chord Theory for Autoharpers, Part 3 by Robert Grappel

Bud Taylor & Karla Armstrong are Colorfully Chromatic

A Picker's Portrait: Jeff Dantzler

John Horner and the 12 bar blues

Ann Norris does an Interaction lesson

The Banks Of the Ohio arranged by Mary J. Park

The Crawdad Song is in the Children's Corner

Bad Gig No Dinner continues w/Tina Louise Barr

Old Joe Clark is Mike Herr's Jam n' Bare Bones

Spootiskerry is in The Diatonic Corner w/Lucille

Linda Huber brings us Spring

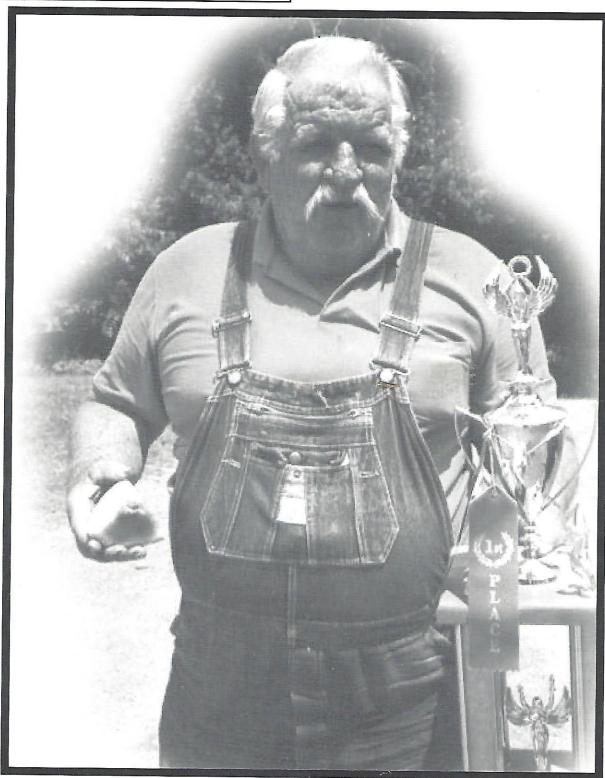


Photo by Brian Symonds

Joe Carter: February 27, 1927 - March 2, 2005

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Autoharp Quarterly The International Magazine Dedicated to the Autoharp Enthusiast

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| Profiles Editor: | |
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| Computer Adviso | r; |
| Ivan Stiles | |
| Web master: | |
| Lindsay Haisley | |
| "Roadie" | |
| Jack Johnston | |
| Contributors: | |
| Warren Fisher | |
| Frank Baker | |
| Rick Melchion | no |
| Gregg Averett | |
| Andrea Burke | |
| Lois Conklin | |
| Cover Photo: | |
| Joe Carter with | his watermelon |
| seed spitting 1st | t Place trophy 1995 |

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Photo by Brian Symonds

From the Editor



Dear Readers;

It is with great sadness that I report on the death of another member of our autoharp family: Joe Carter, son of Sarah and A.P. Carter and beloved brother of Janette passed away after a battle with cancer. More about Joe can be found on page 2. In case you are wondering why we chose a photo of Joe with his watermelon seed spitting contest first place trophy from 1995, it is because we were told that he really enjoyed it and kept it on the stage at the Fold for several weeks. It seems to fit his sense of humor.

You might notice a change in the paper starting with this issue. We had some decisions to make about paper, postage costs and adding four more pages. We simply had to add more pages, there is just too much going on in the autoharp community these days to fit into 48 pages. We think that is great! The problem, of course, comes down to money. More pages cost more money. The extra printing costs could not be avoided, but with the help of our wonderful rep at the printers, we found a paper weight that would be satisfactory without having to incur any higher postal rates. So, that made the pill easier to swallow. Thank you, Jane, from all of us!

Probably by the time this reaches you our webpage will have undergone a transformation. This, too, was necessary because of recent growth. Shortly after that, there is another change about to take place. The mp3s on the Songs From the AQ have been very popular, with one exception. You have asked that they be left on permanently instead of just during a single issue. So, Lindsay and Ivan have been busy making it happen. You will be able to access that page and click on the issue you want to use. No more "I missed that issue, can I still hear the songs?" Now, the answer will be, "Yes!"

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THANKS!



Joe Dougherty Carter

Joe Carter, son of Alvín Pleasant (A.P.) and Sara Dougherty Carter, died March 2, 2005 of pancreatic cancer. Born February 27, 1927, one of three children of the famous couple, Joe was known not only for his music, but for his wit. In addition to playing multiple instruments, the guitar being his favorite, Joe was also an accomplished songwriter. Joe's stories, both on and off stage, were legendary, and he was always ready to share them with anyone who stopped to visit. A WWII veteran of the Navy, Joe was a masterful carpenter who both designed and built the music barn that is home to the weekly stage presentations at The Carter Fold. In addition to his parents, Joe was preceded in death by a sister, Gladys Millard and a son, Jeffrey Delaney Carter. In addition to his sister, Janette, Joe is survived by three daughters -Lisa Dickerson, Connie Jo Keller and Je-lene Jones. To know him was to love him and he will be sorely missed.



Harpers - at - Large Reports from across the country and around the world

Ivan Stiles Mini-Mountain Laurel thought -- part of the fun stems from Concerts & Workshop Reedsville & Newport, PA Reporting: Warren Fisher Selinsgrove, PA

Ivan delighted unrepentant audiences Friday, January 7 and Saturday, January 8, 2005 at Reedsville Evangelical Lutheran Church and Newport's Highland United Presbyterian Church, respectively. Ivan has become a fan favorite, so many of the folks who nearly filled the venues had enjoyed one of his concerts in a previous year. That's no surprise, of course, because he always entertains ... sometimes without making a sound!

Ivan's sound was diverse and intoxicating. He sang and played songs and tunes on chromatic and diatonic 'harps, dulcimer and bowed psaltery. We were treated to Somewhere Over the Rainbow on his saw. He even played the hurdy gurdy for us after sketching its Chinese origins and a bit about how it is played. We enjoyed his characteristic, ingenius mix of seriousness of mind and face (Mama's Not Dead, She's Just Playing Possum). As a member of Saturday's audience, I especially noticed the way he incorporated the audience into what became somewhat of a group enterprise. Not only were we invited to participate, but Ivan's show prompted many voluntarily to move, hum or sing with his music. Ivan was "on" this night.

This concert series is sponsored by Orthey Instruments in cooperation with the Perry County Council of the Arts and the host churches. Related activities usually include a Saturday afternoon workshop in George Orthey's shop, a Durch-treat restaurant meal thereafter and a post-Saturday concert jam at George's house. Of interest is the workshop. On this day, January 8th, Ivan's first handout was The Eighth Of January. "Typical," I

the fact that he's always got a game going on.

The Saturday workshop is an instructor's challenge because all experience groups may be represented, and were this day by the 14 of us. Ivan handled the situation very nicely by using four tunes with simple accompaniment chords, including The Twelfth Of Never, When I Grow Too Old to Dream and Ghost Riders In the Sky. He began with a solid focus on what a beginner can do. Slowly, he had us hum The Eighth Of January (the melody of which is almost identical to the familiar Battle Of New Orleans). Once we were on board with that, he had us thumb strum while humming the tune. Other right-hand techniques and use of melody chords were developed as the workshop progressed, but Ivan was careful to invite participants to play at their achievement threshold. even if that were thumb strum and accompaniment chords (as it was for beginners). If the speed with which time passes measures success, it was a dynamite workshop!

Now, you know why a couple of hundred folks look forward to being with Ivan Stiles again.

Judie Pagter Workshop / Concert w/ Carl Pagter Newport, PA Reporting: Frank Baker Lemoyne, PA

The latest workshop and concert in the "Mini Mountain Laurel Concert Series" sponsored by Orthey Instruments and the Perry County Council of the Arts was held in Newport, PA, on Saturday, February 5th. This month's event featured Judie and Carl Pagter. The afternoon workshop was presented in George Orthey's barn at 1:00pm. Participants included Ove Nymberg, Carol PhilWarren and Ann Fisher, John Chamaillard, Anne Cornell, Dan Cornell and Frank Baker.

After some initial discussion regarding how the group wished to proceed, Judie played Blue Skirt Waltz. She asked if we wanted to learn it, and we agreed. So, she wrote out the words and chords for us, and we played it together until we became quite comfortable with it. Judie encouraged the beginners, as well as the more experienced players among the group, to find our own level of competence in playing.

After a stretch break, Judie taught us her original composition Oh, the Beautiful Flowers. We also played together Step By Step We're Going Up to Zion and reviewed Blue Skirt Waltz again before ending with My Home's Across the Blue Ridge Mountains.

After the workshop, many of us had dinner together at the usual restaurant just outside of Newport, where we shared good a la carte dining and fellowship. Between dinner and the start of the concert, we had the opportunity to jam at the church.

The evening concert at the Highland Presbyterian Church in Newport began at 7:30pm. Judie was joined on stage by Carl and they proceeded to delight their audience with a variety of toe-tappin' songs and singalongs. Carl's voice enhanced the vocal entertainment. He played 5-string banjo in the old time "clawhammer" or "frailing" style while Judie played autoharp.

George Orthey invited everyone back to his house to jam after the concert. There are more workshop/ concerts to come in this continuing series. Workshops are \$15 (registrations required) and concerts are open to the public without charge, with a free-will offering accepted. Contact George Orthey at his home at 717-567-9469, or his workshop at 717lips, Vicki J. Lehman, Linda Huber, 567-6406 for more information and

reservations.

Folk Music at Weatherbury Farm Avella, PA Reporting: Rick Melchionno Silver Spring, MD

I attended the Advanced Beginner weeklong autoharp workshop at He's quite a talented musician and Weatherbury Farm Bed and Breakfast from March 13th to 18th.

One other student and I were lucky enough to be the inaugural class at Weatherbury Farm. Additional classes will be offered periodically throughout the year in other acoustic instruments. Check out the schedule and get more information on the milieu at this site: http://www. in not expecting (or really wanting) folkmusic.weatherburyfarm.com/

Indeed, they've nailed some topname instructors. I hear that none other than Bryan Bowers is lined up to teach an autoharp class there next season. But regardless of the teacher or the instrument, the student is likely to come away with expectations exceeded, as was the case with me.

setting itself was worth the expense. Marcy and Dale Tudor, with able assistance from their metalsmithing son, Nigel, have done an impeccable job renovating three buildings on their farm in Avella, Pennsylvania (about 25 miles south of Pittsburgh) and turned them into luxury accommodations befitting the most demanding traveler.

I inspected three of the seven well-appointed guest rooms (all with fireplaces!), and I can't think of a better rural environment to get away from it all, revitalize the senses and gather inspiration to practice one's instrument. You can't beat relaxing on the balcony overlooking a hilly pasture and a variety of wildlife as a way to absorb all that valuable classroom information. And, don't be afraid to get up close and personal. For me, petting the goats and sheep was a novel experience and added immeasurably to the overall allure of the surroundings.

The iirrepressible Bill Schilling was our instructor. For those of you who know Bill, you'll know what I mean when I say Bill's feeling for the music is infectious. His love of the

folk genre and of the autoharp was immediately apparent and made it that much easier to learn.

a concert at a local tourist attraction, which was likewise included in the package, and we got a chance to hear Bill on a wide variety of instruments. instructor, and he exudes the love for his work whether he's accompanying his singing on "jug," or explaining the circle of fifths. Weatherbury Farm is lucky to have him. (Or he's lucky to have Weatherbury Farm, considering he's the coordinator of the folk school.)

As for the instruction ... I went to learn to play melody. I came out able to pick out (albeit quite slowly) the melody to just about any of the songs in Bill's book of hundreds of folk songs, and more ... by ear, OR by "paper training," as Bill calls it. Bill completed the ardous task of printing the chord that contains each note of all the songs in his book. So his For this lifelong city dweller, the method wins half the battle. More than half. From there, the player has only to find the appropriate string (or approximate it) among the ones that are not dampened. I'm not sure I've seen this method before, but it's working out great for me. It does encourage some dependence on sheet music, but at the same time, it trains the ear to identify the tone of each string for eventual playing by ear.

And that's only a fraction of what we learned. Bill prepared a two-page syllabus, and he made it a point to cover every item on it! And we had plenty of time for that because Bill will never be accused of being a clockwatcher. Our classroom time far exceeded the prescribed 20 hours for the week. And I never got tired of playing. Probably a testimony to our repertoire and the company we kept.

Speaking of repertoire, Bill's songbook(s) includes a variety of "old-time" songs as well as more current folk music in that vein. If you ever get a chance to hear, or better yet play, Bob Coltman's Before They Close the Minstrel Show or Bill Staine's River, do yourself that favor. We played both of them many times and our collective fondness for those

songs led me to dub them "Weatherbury Farm's Greatest Hits, so far."

Bill's teaching was a thorough On Wednesday night, Bill gave combination of lecture, demonstration and hands-on playing. We covered theory. We covered different strumming patterns (including Travis style which I haven't noticed other autoharp teachers cover in their strumming lessons). We learned what chords we could substitute for chords not on our 'harps.

> We learned tips for changing chords smoothly and for transposing. All the nuts and bolts stuff, too, such as tuning, refelting and improving action. Information on picks, straps, micing, autoharp media resources ... you name it. For me, left hand and right hand techniques, as well as melody playing, were probably the most valuable, but I particularly enjoyed learning "decorations" such as trills and arpeggios and substituting color chords to enhance our playing.

> I couldn't have imagined a more comprehensive class or a better setting in which to hold it. The next autoharp workshop will be an intermediate class taught by Les Gustafson-Zook May 1 to May 6. There will also be classes coming up for you mountain and hammered dulcimer players. You really don't want to miss them.

Doofus Concert at Newport, PA Mini-Mt.Laurel Series Reporting: Gregg Averett Marietta, GA

The highly regarded quartet known as Doofus, consisting of Neal & Coleen Walters and John & Heidi Cerrigione performed April 2, 2005 in the season finale of the Mini-Mountain Laurel Concert Series. Their performances in the Reedsville Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Highland United Presbyterian Church venues with their soulful and uplifting repertoire helped redeem folk musicians everywhere from the notions of some that they were beyond salvation. At the Saturday night concert I attended, Doofus was particularly well received by a diverse and appreciative audience that filled every pew plus a few chairs in back.

I am no stranger to their perfor-

mances and was delighted and excited by the extent of new materials- the product of much individual preparation and a week of rehearsals which they premiered for us that weekend. I am sure all there had their favorites, but two stood out for me. One was a Mexican instrumental called Llegada in which the familiar trick of masking tape on the strings of the autoharp was matched with similar muting of John's guitar and Heidi's hammered dulcimer. The result was a sound remarkably reminiscent of the folk harp playing of the Yucatan region, ading in a maraca-like overlay produced by Neal's fingerpicks rasping on the slightly muted strings. A truly delightfully piece! I predict its certain inclusion in their next album.

I was also moved by a melancholy but inspirational encore number called *The Goodnight Song*, the lyrics for which you can Google, combined with the band, Blue Murder. Heidi moved over to the church's piano to provide a simple uplifting backup as the others sang, slowly, with no instrumentation. Soon we had all joined in for the choruses and, I have to admit, I was watery-eyed by the end.

Of course, their usual favorites were represented, including a special request for *The Mermaid From Ontario*, for which Neal donned an impressively fish-adorned ball cap. Needless to say, we were all feeling very "merry-o" by the final refrain.

Earlier in the day, the usual battery of Saturday workshops was magnified and enhanced by dividing the twenty attendees (including one each from Germany and Canada) into beginning, intermediate and advanced groups led by John, Heidi and Neal, each working through three hours of lessons at separate locations around George Orthey's farm complex. That, dear readers, represents quite a commitment to autoharp instruction. In all respects, Doofus is to be congratulated for a truly impressive showing in the mini-concert finale weekend.

And, certainly, George Orthey is to be commended for conceiving, organizing, promoting and supporting this cultural jewel, which has done so much to enrich Newport and its surrounding regions. I always feel April Come She Will, best known as fortunate when duty and desire combine to bring me into town for one of these weekends. We all doff our fish-hats to you, George!

April Come She Will, best known as a Paul Simon crafted tune. An ineresting aside about their third tune, Going To the West, revealed that this was a song both had learned in a

Robert Grappel/Lynda Cohen CD Release Party

Sit N' Bull Restaurant, Maynard, MA

Reporting: Andrea Burke Franklin, MA

"Tis oft been said that the sound of the autoharp is one of the world's sweetest. Couple the fact that the singing partner/wife of one of the most erudite autoharp masters is also a professional pastry chef, and brought her creations to a receptive audience on the night of their CD release party, and you have an awful lot of folks on a sugar high.

Tasteful is another adjective that comes to mind in the selection of songs that the folk duo, Robert Grappel and Lynda Cohen, compiled for their CD entitled "We Have Today." This listener just ate up all of the information imparted during their musical presentation. Bob wowed the audience throughout the evening with his instrumentation and alternated between three autoharps that he brought along, including a chromatic and a diatonic autoharp and also the largest 'harp I had ever seen! He explained that it was one of about 10 in the world and was considered to be a baritone autoharp. He admitted laughingly that he needed to have a 'harp to match every key that his wife sang in, though if he had been serious, he would have needed others as her voice pretty much scanned the

As a fellow "southpaw," I was intrigued by the fact that he held his 'harps upright while playing instead of holding the 'harp in his lap. Following a warm up set by Fishkein and Groves, the owner of the club that the concert was held in, Lynda and Bob stepped on the stage and showcased a variety of styles, all of which lent themselves to the autoharp. They began with their adaptation of the funny songsters Lou and Peter Berryman's *Crab Kind of Day* and then segued to the more somber

a Paul Simon crafted tune. An ineresting aside about their third tune, Going To the West, revealed that this was a song both had learned in a workshop at the Mt. Laurel Autoharp Gathering that had been geared towards couples performing together. The fourth song showcased Solo, by John Schindler, seemed like a flawless pause between voice and instrument. It was the fifth song that was totally instrumental though, and after listening to Somewhere Over the Rainbow, which Bob had also recorded at the Mt.Laurel Autoharp Gathering, I wanted to click the heels of my red shoes. It was the Oscar-nominated song, The Scarlet Tide, which was their sixth number and was written by Elvis Costello and recorded by both Sting and Alison Kraus, that convinced me of the complete versatility of the 'harp. Their 7th song performed, Harpers Waltz had been created by the talented autoharp player and writer, Mary Umbarger, while Ozark Hills had an old timey feel to it, perhaps due to the influence of writer and luthier, Ron Wall. No autoharp concert seems complete without a Stoneman rendition and Bob and Lynda did not disappoint with the 1926 Ernest Stoneman singalong song called Step Stone. Fishing With John, The Change and Wallflower Waltz completed the set. Bob abberated (don't we all) from The Change by playing guitar, but gave due credit to Oregon's comic 'harper Meryle Korn, as influencing his selection.

Despite the presence of Lynda's cupcakes, no one needed yeast to inspire them to rise for what proved an educational and fun night of autoharp playing and accompaniment..

Autoharp "Spring Fling" Modesto, CA Reporting: Lois Conklin San Andreas, CA

There once was an "Autoharp Spring Fling"

In Modesto, California, where autoharps made the rafters ring,

Tina Louise, Cathy and Laura were the performers who organized and offered participants chances to play (Continued on the next page) 529 ARDMORE ROAD, HO-HO-KUS, NJ 07423 201 444-2833 / e-mail: drewharpsmith@netzero.net

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Make check to DREW SMITH -- See P&H info at top Great All-American AUTOHARP EMPORIUM 529 ARDMORE ROAD, HO-HO-KUS, NJ 07423 201 444-2833 / e-mail: drewharpsmith@netzero.net (Harpers at Large continued) and sing.

We met new friends and old from Autoharp gatherings we've attended over the years,

All who attended were awed by the talent displayed in the workshops and concerts performed,

Our lives were touched and our hearts were warmed,

John and Ray joined the ranks, as accomplished accompanists extraordinaire

Adding to each piece music that was beyond compare.

An open stage was offered to all, with yodeling, fiddle music and a D'Aigle Harp played a tune, by Ann.

Time for a "Jam" with such songs as Skip To My Lou, Five Foot Two. Listen To the Mockingbird and Be A Friend, to name but a few.

Grateful participants accepted all that was shared

With full hearts of joy and tears.

What a day to remember, the music still singing in our souls, that will go with us over the years.

Because of this gift of love, our lives will never be the same,

The music will forever change us as we listen again and again.

Tina Louise, Cathy, Laura, John and Ray, we thank you with grateful hearts for adding your music to our lives.

Buckeye Dulcimer Festival Ashley, OH Reporting: Bruce Hoffman Clarence Center, NY

Louise Ziegler did it again. Her crew directed a grand week for the 14th annual festival. This was the 4th year that the autoharp was included. In 2002 Karen Mueller was the first, followed by Karla Armstrong, then Karen Daniels. For 2005, Les Gustafson-Zook was the instructor. Kay Baird again took the beginners.

Les started us post-beginners with different variations of scales. Pinch, pluck, double pluck and trip-

lets. We worked on some fsmiliar tunes arranged by Les, where he used 7ths and minor chords, which really had to be played on a chromatic 'harp. To name a few: Westphalia Waltz, Are You Washed In the Blood?, Silver Bell and West Fork Gals. We had a great time, were shown much and retained some, I hope.

Saturday, the weekend crowd swelled our ranks as Les taught a class in waltzes and one in blues. I finished the day in Dee Dee Tibits pennywhistle class. She 's lots of fun.

We had three fabulous evening concerts. Saturday night is the one we waited for. Carole Outwater's friend Lois Hornbostel led off with her excellent playing of the mountain dulcimer. Then next was Les, whoplayed until intermission. His playing was greeted by thunderous applause. He finished his performance on a stool atop a table with his limberjacks. The hit one was Gratty, made from a (circa 1920s) hand held vegetable grater. Gratty had silver dollar sized green eyes, arms of spoons and legs made of table forks. He made those limberjacks fly and Les had that crowd of 250 plus in his pocket. The only rest Gratty got is when he flew off the handle and landed on the floor. Even this thrilled the crowd. Les is a grand showman and an excellent choice. Thanks, Louise.

This year's raffle netted over \$1600 for Recreation Unlimited. Joe Wojciechowski's hammered dulcimer was the big prize. Joe has donated a hammered dulcimer every year from the start. He is an interesting fellow. I watched at his vendor's booth as he made loops in string ends with an automobile power window operator driven by a garden tractor battery.

This event is a joy. Great people and worth the \$73 worth of gas it



Events

| | CODE: |
|----|----------------------|
| AC | Autoharp Contest |
| AP | Autoharp Performance |
| AW | Autoharp Workshop |
| AF | Autoharp Friendly |

MAY

- ◆ Otis Music Gathering; May 13-14; Otis, CO; Code: AW, AP (Cathy Barton); Info: 970-246-3256 or www.otismuusicgathering.org or 37striings@centurytel.net
- ◆ Jubilee of Acoustic Music (JAM, Inc.) May 20-21; Longview Community College, Lee's Summit, MO; workshops and concerts for dulcimer, guitar, fiddle, banjo, flute, pennywhistle, mandolin and autoharp; Code: AW, AP Info: www.jubileeofacousticmusic.org
- California Autoharp Gsthering; May 20-22; St. Nicholas Ranch, near Squaw Valley, CA; Code:AW, AP (Cathy Britell, Tina Louise Barr, Carey Dubbert, Bryan Bowers, Ron Wall, Evo Bluestein, Larry Hanks, Hal Weeks, Roy Frank, Pete Daigle, Kenny Hall and the Long Haul String Band, Cathy & Carol); lodging and food on site; info: www.calautoharp.com
- ◆ Dulci-More Festival 11; May 27-29; McKinley Scout Camp, Lisbon, OH; Code: AW, AP (Les Gustafson-Zook, Bill Schilling, Mary Thompson, Stringed Fantasy); Info: bill@dulcimore.org or www.dulcimore.org

JUNE

- Chestnut Ridge Dulcimer Festival; June 3-5; University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, PA; Code: AW, AP (Lindsay Haisley, John Hollandsworth & the Mountain Fling Band, Karla Armstrong); Info: www.chestnutridgefest.com or dwbrinker@pacol.net
- ♦ Minnesota Homegrown Kickoff; June 3-5; El Rancho Manana CG & Riding Stables, west of St. Cloud, MN; Code: AF; Info: Jed Malischke 800-635-3037 or www.minnesotabluegrass.org or bea@minnesotabluegrass.org
- Autoharp Jamboree; June 7-11 Ozark Folk Center, Mountain View,

AR; Code: AW, AP, AC (Six new-edition Ron Wall autoharps as prizes); Info: www.ozarkfolkcenter.com or 870-269-3851 or 1-866-898-1035

- Gebhard Woods Dulcimer Festival; June 11-12; Gebhard Woods State Park, Morris, IL; Code: AW, AP (Alex Usher, Cathy Ciolac); Info: www.gwdf.org or 708-331-6875
- ◆ Ozark Folk Center Advanced Autoharp Week; June 14-17; Code: AW (Charles Whitmer's week-long advanced autoharp workshop); Info: www.ozarkfolkcenter.com or 870-269-3851
- ◆ CBA 30th Annual Father's Day Weekend; June 16-19; Nevada County Fairgrounds, Grass Valley, CA; Code: AP (Judie Pagter with Country Ham); Info: www.cbaontheweb.org
- ◆ Ozark Folk Center Beginner Autoharp Week; June 21-24; Mt. View, AR; Code: AW(Charles Whitmer's week-long beginner autoharp workshop; Info: 870-269-3851 or www.ozarkfolkcenter.com
- Mountain Laurel Autoharp Gathering; June 22-26; Little Buffalo Family CG, Newport, PA; Code: AW, AP, AC (Bryan Bowers, Mike Fenton, Lindsay Haisley, Mike Herr, Glenn Scott, Carlos Plumley, Harvey Reid, Laurie Simpson-Jennifer Cordier & Company, Patsy Stoneman); Home of the Mt. Laurel Autoharp Championship; Info: www. mlag.org
- ◆ Ole Tyme Music Festival; June 24-26; Caesar's Creek Pioneer Village, Waynesville, OH; Code: AP; Info: www.strothers.com/ccpv.htm or 937-862-5551
- ◆ Ozark Folk Center Intermediate Autoharp Week; June 28-July 1; Mt. View, AR; Code: AW; (Charles Whitmer's week-long workshop for intermediate autoharp players; Info: www.ozarkfolkcenter.com or 870-269-3851

JULY

Cranberry Dulcimer Festival; July 22-24; Unitarian Universalist Church, Binghamton, NY; Code: AW, AP (John Hollandsworth, Ivan Stiles, David Rubin, Lyman "Bud" Taylor, Drew Smith, Tom Fladmark, Cindy Harris); Info: www.jonweinberg.com/cranberry

AUGUST

♦ Willamette Valley Autoharp Gathering; July 29-31; O&L Gardens, Albany, OR; Code: AW,AP (Bryan Bowers, Les Gustafson-Zook, more); Info: www.wvag.com or jread@peak.org or 541-745-7562 or cathy@larkpoint.com

Minnesota Bluegrass & Old-Time Music Frestival; August 11-14; El Rancho Manana CG & Riding Stables, west of St. Cloud, MN; Code: AF; Info: Jed Malischke at 800-635-3037 or bea@minnesotabluegrass.org or www.minnesotabluegrass.org

SEPTEMBER

■ Walnut Valley Festival; September 14-18; Cowley County Fairgrounds, Winfield, KS; Code: AW, AP, AC (Julie Davis, Roz Brown, more) Home of the International Autoharp Championship. 10+ free workshops; Info: 620-221-3250 or www.wvfest.com

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Cathy Comes To Arizona

narrated by Burt Buckborough

On February 9, Cathy Britell came to visit our Arizona Autoharp Outpost under the aegis of the Arizona Autoharp Club. But it was not just a visit; for most of us, it was a pilgrimage in reverse. We did not go to the mountain - she came to us. And what a pilgrimage it was! I have to say that she is the perfect embassador for our instrument.

Looking back on Cathy's sojourn in the desert, it seems to me that she was born to be an advocate for our chosen instrument. There are other "virtuosi" who dazzle and amaze us with the speed, clarity and beauty of their playing, but Cathy goes beyond that - her presentation is multidimensional. She not only plays brilliantly, but her arrangements show true insight into the nature of both the music and the instrument. Player, instrument and music are always a perfect fit.



Cathy with a littlr guy. I can do it!

But where Cathy really shines is when you add the 4th element - the audience. In a nutshell, Cathy has fun and lets us know it. As she plays, she becomes a part of the audience and enjoys what she is doing every bit as much as those of us who are

Cathy has a variety of workshops covering many facets of the autoharp. She is able to draw upon these workshops and she adapts them effortlessly to the general level of ex- regular monthly Arizona Autoharp perience among the harpists in any particular group she is working with. While she confesses that she has had to work hard to accomplish it, she has great presence which enables her to be totally "there" with her audience, both in her concerts and her workshops.

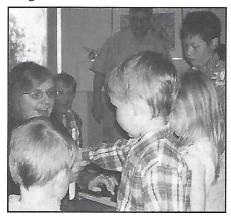
This was proven over and over again to me. I was fortunate enough to be among the listeners during at least three of Cathy's concerts and, while her repertoire was essentially the same for each one, her presentation was so keyed to the specific audience, that each concert was a delightfully new experience.

Cathy s visit was a whirlwind of events. She arrived on Tuesday (2/8) and bright and early the next morning we drove from Encanto Park in Phoenix to the home of Norma Miner in Prescott. There we were the beneficiaries of a small and intimate workshop and concert attended by our autoharp friends in Prescott.Following that, we drove back (courtesy of Barbara Giamalvo's living roomlike van) to Phoenix where Cathy played a great set at the Encanto Park clubhouse.

The next day, Thursday, it was on the road again. This time down to Tucson where Cathy presented another workshop and concert at Bonnie Lohman s house. This time we were lucky to have not only some more advanced harp players, but several bluegrass enthusiasts as well. Cathy again displayed her unique ability to adapt to the level and needs of her audience. We also enjoyed getting acquainted with our more southern "friends of the autoharp." After Tucson, we drove back Cathy & the kids having fun! to Phoenix where Cathy was staying with Fuey Herring and her husband. Friday was a more relaxed day which included a jam at Barbara s

Club get-together at the Church on Fillmore in Phoenix. Along with Cathy s workshop, we were favored with a visit by Gordon Baker, creator of the beautifully constructed Glad Morning autoharps.

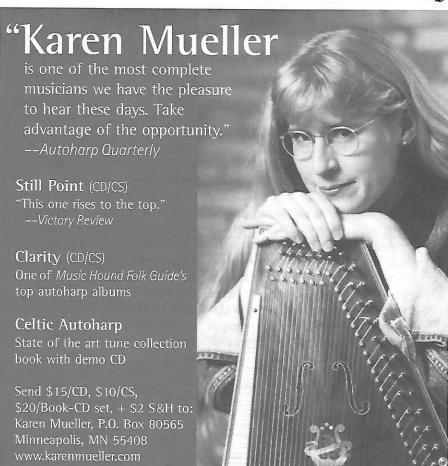
Sunday featured a Cathy Britell house concert at the home of Midori Hall. The people who came to hear Cathy were a great mix of friends, neighbors and autoharp club members with their spouses. Cathy s concert presented an opportunity to showcase another singular talent: during the concert, several of the neighborhood children in attendance were caught up in the music and began to "participate." Rather than being deterred, Cathy saw this as an opportunity to involve the kids even more by inviting them to a hands-on mini learning session. The kids and grownups all enjoyed the interplay while Cathy displayed her ability to connect with children. The autoharp became not only an instrument to make music but also a tool for connecting with people. One more dimension in Cathy's many-faceted range of talents.



Sadly for us, Cathy s Arizona trip ended the next day when she headed back to her home in Mercer Island, WA. She gave much to us Saturday was the day for our while she was here. For many of us, she re-invigorated and renewed our general interest in the autoharp, showed us the many subtle ways it can make music, demonstrated true musicianship, taught us many unforgettable learning and playing techniques, taught us delightful new songs and presented a role model for those of us who aspire to public performance. And last, but certainly not least, Cathy charmed and captivated us all.

We are indebted to Barbara Giamalvo and Fuey Herring for putting together Cathy s visit. This was her first visit to Arizona's Autoharp Outpost and we hope there will be many more.





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The Children's Corner

by Verla Boyd and Kathleen Bassett

I can remember going crawdad fishing as a child at a creek near my house. We would tie bacon on the end of a string and place it at the opening of a crawdad hole on the creek bank near the water's edge. We would save them in a bucket with water. Then, when we were done fishing, we compared the sizes with the others to see who caught the biggest crawdad and then toss

swinging on grape vines over the holes to bring them out and throwing flies in cob webs to lure the spiand try to come up with a tune or

them back in the creek. I think life two. We would also put wax paper was simpler back then. Summer over a comb and hum through it for time was great fun, going bare foot, a song. But you are very fortunate to have an autoharp. So here is a creek, poking a stick down snake song that should bring some fun to your life this summer. Now don t you take those strings off to use for ders out to see how big they were crawdad fishing. We have found and what kind. For entertainment lots of verses that can keep you we would blow over a pop bottle singing this song all summer long.

The Crawdad Song

Traditional

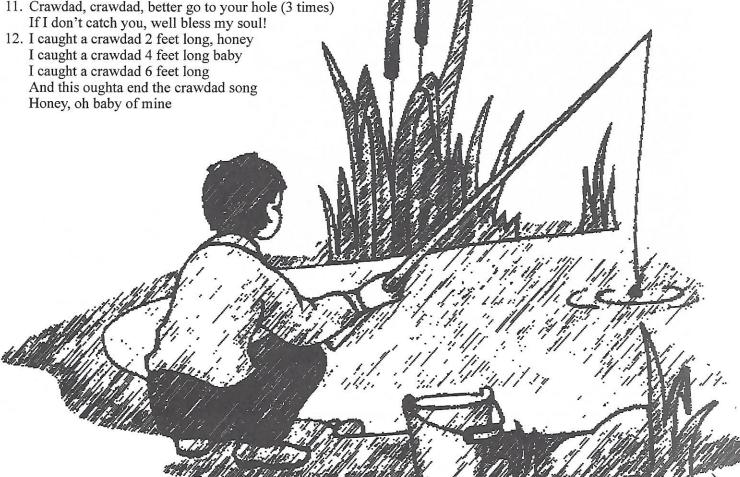
Arranged by Verla and Kathleen MB



Verse 2. Get up Sal you slept too late honey Get up Sal you slept too late babe Get up Sal you slept too late Crawdad man has passed your gate Honey - oh baby of mine.

(continue similarly)

- 3. He sells crawdads 3 for a dime (3 times) But there ain't no crawdads good as mine.
- 4. Whatcha gonna do when the creek runs dry (3 times) Sit on the bank and cry, cry, cry.
- 5. Whatcha gonna do when I'm old and gray (3 times) Hey old man, I'll stay away.
- 6. Yonder comes a man with a pack on his back (3 times) Totin' all the crawdads he can pack
- 7. The man fell down and he broke that sack (3 times) See those crawdads backing back
- 8. I heard the duck say to the drake (3 times) There ain't no crawdads in this lake 9. Standin' on the corner with a dollar in my hand (3 times)
- Standin' and a waitin' for the crawdad man 10. Sittin' on the ice til my feet got hot (3 times) Watchin' those crawdads rack and trot
- 11. Crawdad, crawdad, better go to your hole (3 times)



Lyman Taylor & Karla Årmstrong present ~



Colorfully Chromatic

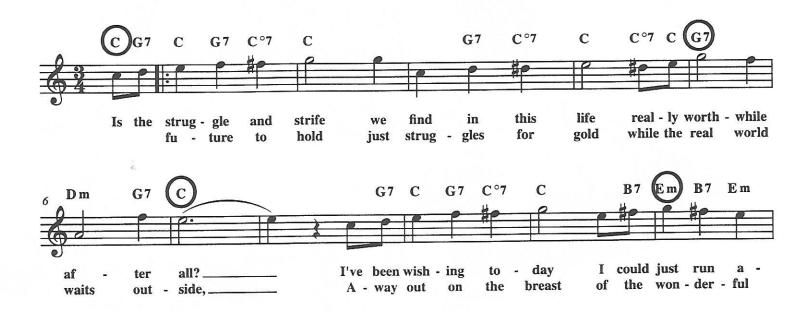
"Let the Rest of the World Go By" Words by J. Keirn Brennan, Music by Ernest R. Ball, 1919

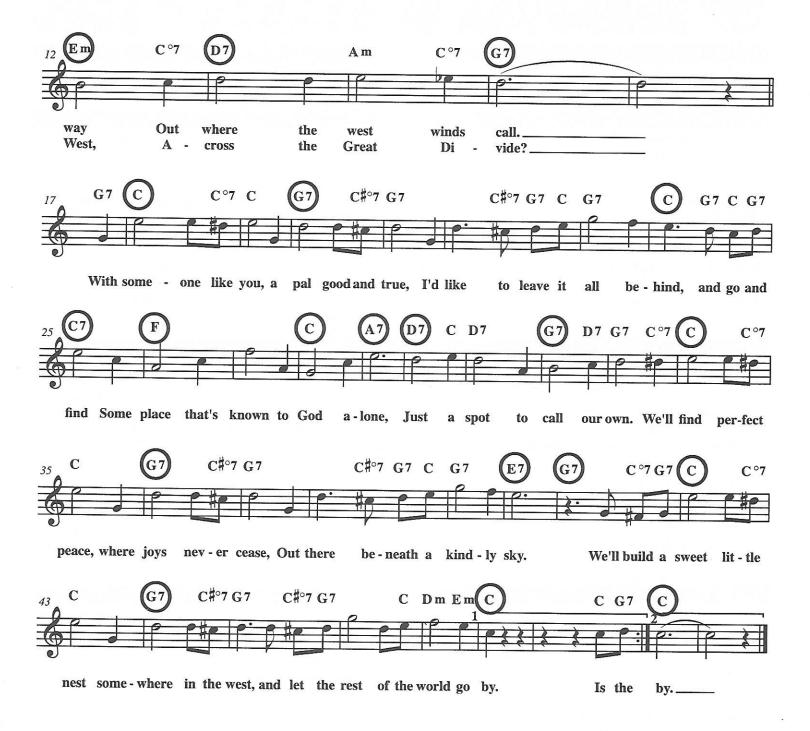
A major airline asks, "Want to get away?" The universal yearning of the human heart to "get away from it all" was expressed in this beautiful song of a bygone era long before it was a commercial. "It tells what every cowboy hopes for," according to America's Singing Cowboy, Gene Autry. Hollywood apparently agrees. It was part of the score for the 1985 movie, "Out of Africa," and found its way into the repertoire of none other than Willie Nelson and Ringo Starr!

The composer and lyricist, jointly and separately, are best known for their Irish tunes. The rather unusual departure to a western theme owes to Brennan's experience as a cowboy in Texas and a miner in the Klondike before taking up a career in song writing. He certainly struck it rich with this song! And for our purposes, it's a

chromatic gold mine!

The lesser-known verse provides a good contrast to the familiar chorus. The brief excursion out of the Key of C seems to emphasize the lament "I could just run away." In the chorus, we find a brief stroll down "7th Avenue," as well as liberal use of the Diminished 7th chords. Note how these indispensable chords tend to resolve. Becoming familiar with this consistent relationship will enable you to anticipate which chords to use as you do your own arranging. We hope that when you're ready to step out of the rut, you'll pick up your autoharp and "Let the Rest of the World Go By"!





FOOTNOTES

Circled chords are rhythm chords.

Chord Substitutions: Co7 = B7 except Measure 12 = Am C#o7 = A7 but play a single note - c#.

Note: Low range voices may be able to sing this an octave or two lower than written. Mid-range voices may want to transpose to the Key of F. This may be accomplished by moving the chord symbols ahead three letters on the musical alphabet (e.g. C becomes F, G becomes C, etc.).



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - 2005

| 2.00 | Regionary Root Comp (until 5.00) | D . | | |
|-----------------|--|------------------|---|-----------------|
| 2:00 | 8 (min) () | Beginner | Carole Outwater/George Orthey | Pavilion |
| 6:00 | | | | Recreation Hal |
| 7:30 | | General Interest | Board Members | Recreation Hal |
| | SDAY • JUNE 23 | | | |
| 9:00 | 8 | General Interest | Neal Walters | Recreation Hall |
| 10:00 | Chromatic Waltzes | Intermediate | Mike Fenton | Recreation Hall |
| 11:00 | Workshop (Subject to be announced) | Beginner | Bryan Bowers | Recreation Hall |
| 12:00 | Lunch & Open Stage | | Kathy Wieland, Emcee | Recreation Hall |
| 1:00 | | General Interest | Laurie & John Simpson/Jennifer Cordier & Company | Recreation Hall |
| 2:00 | r | Intermediate | Mike Herr | Recreation Hall |
| 3:00 | | Advanced | Lindsay Haisley | Recreation Hall |
| 4:00 | The Charms of the Chromatic Autoharp | Intermediate | Harvey Reid | Recreation Hall |
| 5:00 | Nuts and Bolts for Beginning Folks | Beginner | Tina Louise Barr | Recreation Hall |
| 6:00 | Dinner & Open Stage | | Frank Baker, Emcee | Recreation Hall |
| 7:30 | Concert | General Interest | Laurie & John Simpson/Jennifer Cordier & Company, Lindsay Haisley, Mike Herr & Glenn Scott, Harvey Reid | Recreation Hall |
| | Y • JUNE 24 | | | |
| 10:00 | | Beginner | Mike Herr | Recreation Hall |
| 11:00 | Workshop (Subject to be announced) | Intermediate | Bryan Bowers | Recreation Hall |
| 12:00 | Lunch & Open Stage | | Cindy Harris, Emcee | Recreation Hall |
| 1:00 | Writing and Arranging for the Autoharp | Beginner | Harvey Reid | Recreation Hall |
| | Kids' Workshop | Special Interest | Linda Huber | Game Room |
| 2:00 | Mountain Laurel Championship Autoharp Toss | General Interest | Gregg Averett | Cabin Area |
| | Jam Session | General Interest | Laurie & John Simpson/Jennifer Cordier & Company | Recreation Hall |
| 3:00 | So You're Expecting Triplets | Intermediate | Tina Louise Barr | Recreation Hall |
| 4:00 | Concert: Workshop Leaders Round Robin | General Interest | Carole Outwater, Linda Huber, Patsy Stoneman, Wanda Degen, Tina Louise Barr, Karla Armstrong | Recreation Hall |
| 5:00 | Shade Tree 'Harp Mechanics | General Interest | Pete Daigle | Recreation Hall |
| 6:00 | Dinner & Open Stage | - | Gregg Averett, Emcee | Recreation Hall |
| | Autoharp Tuning Time | | Championship Participants Only | Game Room |
| 7:30 | | General Interest | Ivan Stiles, Emcee | Recreation Hall |
| SATUR | DAY • JUNE 25 | | | Best in 72 a |
| 10:00 | Rhythms on the Autoharp | Beginner | Lindsay Haisley | Recreation Hall |
| 11:00 | Vocal Accompaniment for the Autoharp | Beginner | Wanda Degen | Recreation Hall |
| | Kids' Workshop | Special Interest | Linda Huber | Game Room |
| 12:00 | Lunch & Open Stage | 1 | Neal Walters, Emcee | Recreation Hall |
| 1:00 | Bazaar Autoharp | General Interest | Gregg Averett, Coordinator | Recreation Hall |
| | Square & Contra Dance | General Interest | Mountain Laurel Pick Up Band with Cindy Harris calling | Recreation Hall |
| 2:00 | Celtic Tunes on the Autoharp | Intermediate | Wanda Degen | Recreation Hall |
| 3:00 | Fluid Speed Playing for Diatonic | Advanced | Mike Fenton | Recreation Hall |
| 4:00 | An Hour with Patsy Stoneman | General Interest | Patsy Stoneman | Recreation Hall |
| 5:00 | Jam Session | General Interest | Laurie & John Simpson/Jennifer Cordier & Company | Recreation Hall |
| 6:00 | Dinner & Open Stage | General Interest | Eileen Kozloff, Emcee | Recreation Hall |
| 7:30 | Concert | General Interest | Mike Fenton, Harvey Reid, Lindsay Haisley, Bryan Bowers | Recreation Hall |
| SUNDA | Y • JUNE 26 | | Antidoxy Tamorey, Digan Doners | |
| 10:00 | Gospel Sing and Play | General Interest | Karla Armstrong | Recreation Hall |
| 11:00 | Lunch & Open Stage | Scheral Interest | Mary Low Orthey, Emcee | Recreation Hall |
| 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 | | General Interest | Mike Herr & Glenn Scott, | Recreation Hall |
| 12:00 | Concert | General Interest | Mike Fenton, Bryan Bowers | Recreation Han |

Bad Gig No Dinner

True Stories Part II

Copyright 2005 by Tina Louise Barr

The "performance part" of playing music is a complex developmental process for most people. Any musician will document that the comfort of one s own living room is where all the perfect notes are kept.

Autoharp players sometimes have an additional set of hurdles to jump over when venturing out the door, such as: simply being heard, frequent tuning, or filtering offers for "bring your harpsichord - toy instrument - can you play for free" types of engagements.

The "open stage" experience is the most frequently reported BAD GIG NO DINNER encounter. The real part about it is that a collective set of eyes is upon you. The other real part, however, is that they probably won t remember everything in the same degree as you did.

My first solo performance on the autoharp was before a group at an Autoharpoholic social event hosted by Becky Blackley. It became evident that a case of mommoth "butterflies" had inhabited my performance. Graciously, Becky then remarked to me, "Your are among friends." That comment certainly lifted a great deal of the pressure!

Not every musical performance will be a "keeper" for the scrapbook, but with a positive spirit, something always can be learned for the next time. Here are two more BAD GIG NO DINNER stories:

MY FIRST OPEN STAGE

My first open stage happened at a coffeehouse in 1975. I arrived early one Sunday night, and there already were ten people with their guitars, waiting to sign up to play.

Finally, an emcee wearing a big hat showed up. He told us to put our names in the hat if we wanted to play, and that he would draw our names at random during the night. He didn t guarantee that all of us would be able to perform, and then he launched into a long spiel about good stage presence, looking professional, and offering the audience

something unique and special. If I wasn t already nervous enough, this spiel was intimidating.

For the next three hours I sat through each performer s three-song set, wondering if my name would be next. My name finally was called at 11:00pm, and by the time I got up on stage, there were only four people left in the audience. As I played through my set, my hands were shaking, and I didn t look at the audience. Somehow, I made it through. Afterwards, I packed my guitar, and got out of there as fast as I could.

I didn t attend another open stage for five years.

.....Tony Wentersdorf

DISPOSABLE DULCIMERS

Years ago, when I was performing in a hammered dulcimer duet that I had named *Stringed Fantasy*, my music partner and I were to play at a regional park. When we drove up to the gate, we found that it would be necessary to lug in our instruments. Our hammered dulcimers were identical, each having 96 strings, and they were rather bulky to handle.

When a park worker drove by in a motorized cart, we quickly took up the offer for him to transport these wooden "anvils" to our assigned space.

We set up and enjoyed playing traditional pieces all afternoon. When the event was over, we were told that a cart would return for our hammered dulcimers. The little detail we missed knowing before the park worker arrived, however, was that he had just collected garbage from the trash barrels on the grounds. Our beloved, obviously sturdy instruments received a return ride on top of the cartload of trash bags.

.....Tina Louise Barr

This BAD GIG NO DINNER series will remain open for more of your stories in future issues of *Autoharp Quarterly*. If you are an autoharp player,

please send me your personal "True Story" in 100 words or less. Describe some unusual experience that occurred when you or your band went to perform somewhere and things just did not happen as expected.

Your full name and city/state is necessary for your BAD GIG NO DINNER "True Story" article submission. Please specify if you prefer that your first name should be published with just the initial of your last name.

Send your BAD GIG NO DINNER "True Story" to:

Tina Louise Barr 1801 H Street Suite B-5 PMB #225 Modesto, CA 95354

Email story to: BadGigNoDinner@hotmaial.com



The D A TONIC C O R N E R

by Lucille Reilly

This issue's feature:

Syncopation— As You Like It!

Spootiswhatsy? (I don't choose the titles, folks. I just report the music!)

When dance musicians play "Willafjord," introduced in the previous issue of AQ, "Spootiskerry," another Shetland tune, is often paired with it in a medley ("medley" is pronounced with two syllables, by the way).

Examine this tune's structure: The form is AABB'; the B section begins at the end of the second line, at "'" over the music. Both B sections are written out because B' (B prime), beginning at the end of the fourth line at "'", starts out like the B section but ends by recapping the end of the A section. Overall, notice how many small melodic chunks repeat throughout this tune.

"Spootiskerry's" hallmark feature is syncopation. You say you can't see it? Look at mm. 1-2, appearing again at the bottom of this page. In this tune, the melody's shape, not its rhythm, outlines syncopation. Here's how: The note pattern D-E-G repeats three times. When you match up the D's (underlined) with the count ("1-&-2-&" are the strong beats; "ee" and "uh" are weak), the first D lands on "&" (strong), the second D on "ee" (weak) and the third, in m. 2, on 1 (strong). By forcing the second D to produce a strong sound in its weak position, a melodic kind of syncopation occurs here and elsewhere in the tune.

Before you play "Spootiskerry," sing it to plant it firmly in your ear. Give the

repeating D's a little more oomph to bring out the syncopation. When singing the tune more than once nonstop, stop at the fermata () the last time.

Next, without your thumb, sing and finger only (no thumb) mm. 1-2 slowly in the exercise below on your lap or a tabletop. The fingers follow the melody's shape: D-E-G=*i-m-r*. Repeat mm. 1-2 until the fingering feels automatic.

Now add your thumb, which also determines how syncopated "Spootiskerry" will feel. The easy way (①) is to thumb only the first beat and the "and" of 2 in m. 1. For more kick, pinch on every D(②) so the thumb sounds strong-weak-strong. Try each one on your lap or a tabletop several times.

Now play both ways on the autoharp. In ①, the thumbing is fairly easy (although it does present its own challenges, being sporadic). In ②, changing from I to IV will feel "off" because you pinch the note before the chord change instead of on the change, as we diatonicists usually do. (In case you wondered, the second E in m. 1 isn't circled because it's part of the IV chord.) With either thumbing, listen as the T's sound long, low G's underneath. You say you can't hear them? Check that your low G string is open on your C chord. If it is and the low ring is missing or faint, tilt your hand toward the thumb to dip the pick a little deeper into the strings to encourage this resonant,

deep sound.

Now play the entire tune. The "?'s" under the music let you choose the thumb stroke you prefer. The only other fingering tricks are:

- 1) the up-and-down run in mm. 3-4; I recommend mostly *i-m* with the *r* placed as shown;
- 2) the octave jump from m. 6 to 7, and again from m. 23 to 24. Play with your arm off the autoharp to shuttle your hand upward quickly; and
- thumb strokes throughout are sporadic rather than constant, both to add interest and tame the autoharp's ring in its low range.

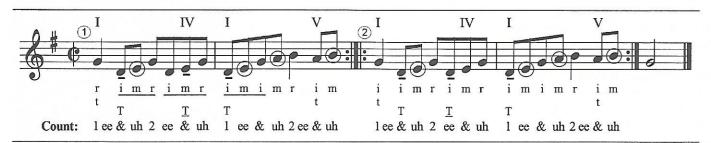
As for chords: Don't you love that minor vi?! (I do; E is the lowest string on my GD autoharp.) And: Each iii chord "fakes" V in order to sound the B in the melody corresponding to it.

Another round of happy hiccups to you until summer!

Lacille

Next issue: The hills are alive with...(oh, something else; you'll like it, though).

Do you have a question or tune you'd like to see addressed in The Diatonic Corner? Write to Lucille via www.thedulcimerlady.com. This is your column, after all.



Spootiskerry



Fingering: T=low thumb, t=higher thumb, i=index finger, m=middle finger, r=ring finger; \uparrow =thumb brush

To hear a MIDI file of "Spootiskerry," go to www.thedulcimerlady.com/thoughts.htm and scroll to the bottom of the page.

Coming in August 2006:

A 5-day diatonic autoharp class devoted to *arranging tunes*, to be held at the John C. Campbell Folk School. For information, see www.thedulcimerlady.com/teaching.htm.

Banks of the Ohio





34th Walnut Valley Festival

September 14,15,16,17,18, 2005

Winfield, Kansas



John McCutcheon Tommy Emmanuel

Stephen Bennett & Friends

The Wilders

Pat Flynn & Friends John Cowan Band

Tom Chapin w/ Michael Mark

The Waybacks Pete Huttlinger

Byron Berline Band

Sons of the San Joaquin David Munnelly & Friends Marley's Ghost Spontaneous Combustion Chris Jones & The Night Drivers Williams & Clark Expedition No Strings Attached IN CONTEST PRIZES The Greencards

Tennessee HeartStrings Band Tim May & Plaid Grass

Still on the Hill King Wilkie Adie Grey **Bob Evans** Andy May Bill Barwick Roz Brown Julie Davis Barry Patton Linda Tilton

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|-----------------------|-------|---------|
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| Fri or Sat | 30 | 35 |
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hq@wvfest.com

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Banks of the Ohio - Continued

Verse 1

I asked my love to take a walk, Just to walk a little way, And as we walked and as we talked About our coming wedding day.

Chorus:

Verse 2

I held a knife against her breast, And gently in my arms she pressed, Crying, "Willie, oh Willie, don't murder me,

For I'm unprepared for eternity."

Chorus:

Verse 3.

I asked your mother for you, dear, And she said you were too young; Only say that you'll be mine. Happiness in my home you'll find. Chorus:

Verse 4.

I took her by her lily white hand, Led her down where the waters stand.

I picked her up and I pitched her in, Watched her as she floated down. Chorus:

Verse 5.

I started back home twixt twelve and one,

Crying, "My God, what have I done?

I've murdered the only woman I love,

Because she would not be my bride."

Choruus:

the Old Autoharp

by Joel Biorling

I saw an old autoharp On the auction rack, Stashed among a phonograph. TV set, and boxes of paperbacks; It was in its case That was spotted with time; People walked by, took a peek, Then moved on down the line.

Who knows where it'd been. Or whose hands had caressed its strings --

A grandmother playing a lullaby, Or friends who just wanted to sing, From quiet firesides to mountain laurels,

Note by note, it's spun its' tale, Its' voice echoes in memories That eroding time cannot assail.

I made my bid, Though we sparred a time or two, Yet I took the autoharp home When the bidding was through; I tuned it, played some songs, And let it weave its' spell.

If you are a professional autoharper and wish to be featured, please send your photo, biography and schedule to: Karen Daniels 9002 Grandview Avenue Overland Park, KS 66212 autoharpgal@minpin.com

TINA LOUISE BARR 1801 'H' Street Suite B-5 PMB #225 Modesto, CA 95354 209 480-4477 autoharphighgear@hotmail. http://www.CalAutoharp. com/TinaLouiseBarr.html Pro-File: AQ February '03 Performance schedule: May 15; 3pm McHenry Museum Modesto, CA May 20-22 CA Autoharp Gathering Dunlap, CA June 7-11 Autoharp Jamboree Mt. View, AR www.ozarkfolkcenter.com June 22-26 Mt. Laurel Autoharp Gather-Little Buffalo Family CG Newport, PA

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10691 N. Madsen Clovis, CA 93612 559 297-8966 Fax: 209 297-8966 evo@evobluestein.com evob@csufresno.edu http://evobluestein.com Pro-File: AQ October '88 Performance schedule: May 20-22 CA Autoharp Gathering Saint Nicholas Ranch Dunlap, CA July 17-23 Swannanoa Gathering -Old Time Week Warren Wilson College Black Mountain, NC July 29 - August 6 Lark in the Morning Music & Dance Camp

Autoharp & Cajun/Zydeco Mountain View, AR 72560 accordion. Info: go to evebluestein.com

BRYAN BOWERS c/o Scott O'Malley & Assoc. PO Box 9188 Colorado Springs, Co 80932 719 635-7776 somagency@aol.com Pro-File: AQ January '89 Performance schedule: May 6-8 Gamble Rogers Festival St. Augustine, FL May 19-21 CA Autoharp Festival Dunlap, CA June 9-11 Autoharp Jamboree Ozark Folk Center Mountain View, AR June 23-25 Mountain Laurel Autoharp Gathering Little Buffalo Family CG Newport, PA June 26 - July 1 Common Ground Westminster, MD July 1 Minstrel Coffeehouse Morristown, NJ July 5-15

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Fresno State

Fresno, CA

July 30-31

Gathering

Florence, OR

1549 S. Holland Court Lakewood, CO 80232 303 969-9645 rozzie@rozbrown.com http://www.rozbrown.com Pro-File: AQ October '89 Performance schedule: Every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday night Buckhorn Exchange Restau-1000 Osage Street Denver, CO

Willamette Valley Autoharp

KAREN DANIELS

9002 Grandview Drive Overland Park, KS 66212 913 642-6442 Or 19257 Hwy 14

870 269-2391 autoharpgal@minpin.com Pro-File: AQ Spring '04 Performance schedule: May 20-21 Jubilee of Acoustic Music Longview Comm. College Lee's Summit (Ks.City) MO June 7-11 Autoharp Jamboree Ozark Folk Center Mountain View, AR September 10 Great Plains Dulcimer Alliance Warm-up Picnic Island Park Winfield, KS

JULIE DAVIS PO Box 1302 Nederland, CO 80466 303 258-3444 jdavis@indra.com Pro-File: AQ July '91 Performance schedule: May 7-8 All day autoharp workshop Nederland, CO May 7:8pm Swallow Hill Concert Denver, CO

WANDA DEGEN

PO Box 6187 East Lansing, MI 48826 517-337-2264 wandadegen@att.net Pro-File: AQ July '90 Performance schedule: June 4 w/Kitty Donohoe, 8-11pm Cappuccino Cafe 1500 W Lake Lansing Rd East Lansing, MI June 18 w/The Troublesome Lasses 7:30-9:30 Live at Ann Street Plaza, corner of MAC Ave & Albert Street East Lansing, MI June 25 Autoharp workshops Mt.Laurel AH Gathering Little Buffalo Family CG Newport, PA June 28 w/Kitty Donohoe 7:30-9pm Summer Concert Series

Music Shell on Water St.

Montague, MI

July 8

w/The Troublesome Trio Meridian Band Shell 7-9pm Lake Lansing Park South corner Lake Lansing & Marsh Road Haslett, MI July 15 Autoharp & Mt.Dulcimer workshops Original Dulcimer Players Club Funfest 1-5pm County Fairgrounds, M-10 Evart, MI July 23 Family Concert with Taia Degen-Repas Hiawatha Music Festival Tourist Park Marquette, MI August 24 w/Kitty Donohoe 12 - 1pm Family Concert Music in the Park Plymouth, MI September 3 w/Pete Wittig 7-8pm Visitors Center Bay City Recreation Area 3582 State Park Drive Bay City, MI

DOOFUS

12228 Hollowell Church Rd Greencastle, PA 17225 717 593-0962 Fax: 301 588-5466 neal@doofusmusic.com http://doofusmusic.com Pro-File: AQ Summer 2001 Performance schedule: May 6-9 Lone Star Dulcimer Festival MD & AH; Neal & Coleen Glen Rose, TX May 21 Warrenton Spring Festival Concert w/Mill Run Dulcimer Band Warrenton, VA June 3-4 Yellowbanks Dulcimer Society; Doofus Owensboro, KY June 7-11 Autoharp Jamboree; Neal & Coleen; Ozark Folk Center Mountain View, AR June 22-26 Mt. Laurel AH Gathering Little Buffalo CG Newport, PA

July 3-9
Swannanoa Dulcimer Week
Doofus; Warren Wilson College; Asheville, NC
October 22-23
UK Autoharp Day
Heidi - Autoharp workshop
DOOFUS - Concert
Sherborne, Dorset, UK

MIKE FENTON

25 OverRoss Farm, Ledbury Road, Ross-on-Wye Herefordshire England HR9 7BN tel-011441989762307 fen.lonesomedove@virgin. Pro-File: AQ October '88 Performance schedule: June 8-11 Autoharp Jamboree Ozark Folk Center Mountain View, AR June 23-26 Mt. Laurel AH Gathering Little Buffalo Family CG Newport, PA June 28 Chautauqua Institution Chautauqua, NY July 3-9 Common Ground Festival Westminster, MD

LES GUSTAFSON-ZOOK 1608 S. 8th Street Goshen, IN 46526 574 534-1173 les@gustafsonzook.com www.gustafsonzook.com Pro-File: AQ April '94 Performance schedule: May 1-6 Weatherbury Farm Avella, PA Intermediate AH Class May 27-29 Dulci-More Festival McKinley Scout Camp Lisbon, OH June 8-11 Autoharp Jamboree Ozark Folk Center Mountain View, AR June 26-July 2 Kentucky Music Week Bardstown, KY July 4-9 Mennonite Church Confer-Charlotte Convention Center Charlotte, NC July 28-31 Willamette Valley Autoharp

Gathering
Florence, OR
August 5-12
John C. Campbell Folk
School
Brasstown, NC
August 12
John C. Campbell Folk
School; Concert 7pm
Brasstown, NC
October 15

Sauder Village Fall Festival Archbold, OH November 18-20 North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association Unicoi State Park Helen, GA

LINDSAY HAISLEY

Further Music Productions PO Box 126 (14206 Spreading Oaks) Leander, TX 78641 512-259-1190 fmouse@fmp.com

Pro-File: AQ April '91 Performance schedule: June 3 - 5 Chestnut Ridge Dulcimer Festival University of Pittsburgh in Greensburg Concert & Workshops Greensburg, PA June 7 - 11 Autoharp Jamboree Ozark Folk Center Workshops & Concert Mountain View, AR June 22 - 26 Mt.Laurel A'harp Gathering Workshops & Concert Little Buffalo Family CG Newport, PA July 28 - 31 Willamette Valley Autoharp Gathering

JOHN HOLLANDSWORTH

Concert & Workshops

Florence, OR

700 Tower Road
Christiansburg, VA 24073
540 382-6550
kholland@vt.edu
www.filebox.vt.edu/users/
kholland/jandk/index.html
Pro-File: AQ November 2002
Performance schedule:
June 3 - 5
Chestnut Ridge Dulcimer

Festival
University of Pittsburgh in
Greensburg
1159 Mt. Pleasant Road
Greensburg, PA
www.chestnutridgefest.com
July 22-24
Cranberry Dulcimer
Gathering; Workshops & Featured Autoharpist; Concert
with Kathie one evening during festival
Binghamton, NY
www.jonweinberg.com/cranberry

ADAM MILLER PO Box 620754 Woodside, CA 94062 650 804-2049 autoharper@earthlink.com www.folksinging.org Pro-File: AQ Fall 2001 Performance schedule: May 18 Eureka Main Library 6:30pm Eureka, CA May 19 Arcata Branch Library Arcata, CA 6:30pm May 24 Carson City Library 7pm Carson City, NV May 25 Boys & Girls Club of SW Nevada 4pm

Carson City, NV

Concert 10:15am

June 4

June 16

June 23

Festival
Grossmont College
El Cajon, CA
June 6
Abbot-Kinney Memorial Library 6:30pm
Venice, CA
June 7
Linden Branch Library 4pm
Linden, CA

Autoharp Workshop 12:30pm

Sam Hinton Folk Heritage

Mt. View Library 2:30pm Mountain View, CA June 16

El Sobrante Library 7pm El Sobrante, CA June 23

Cove Public Library 10am Cove, OR June 23

Union Public Library 1pm Union, OR

North Powder Public Library

4pm North Powder, OR June 24 Concert in Riverside Park 10am La Grande, OR June 24 Elgin Public Library 1pm Elgin, OR June 29-30 Tillamook County Library Tillamook, OR 2pm July 2 Alpine County Library 10:30 Markleeville, CA July 6 San Carlos Community Library 7:30pm San Carlos, CA July 7 Cameron Park Library Cameron Park, CA 3:30pm July 8

Cameron Park, CA 3:30p July 8 San Carlos Community Library 7:30pm San Carlos, CA July 14 Malcolm Library 4pm Henderson, NV July 14

Paseo Verde Library 7pm Henderson, NV July 15

Pittman Library 1pm Henderson, NV July 15

Gibson Library 3:30pm Henderson, NV July 18

Meeteetse Public Library Meeteetse, WY 1:30pm July 18 Powell Public Library

Powell Public Library Powell, WY 3:30pm July 20 Eagle Public Library 2pm

Eagle, ID
July 21
Garden City Library
Garden City, ID 10:30am
July 22

Boise Basin Library
Idaho City, ID 11:00am
July 27

Goleta Branch Library Goleta, CA 10:30am July 27

Santa Barbara Library Santa Barbara, CA 2:30pm July 28

Carpinteria Library 10:30am Carpinteria, CA

July 28

West Los Angeles Library West Los Angeles, CA 4pm

August 1 Little Falls Library Little Falls, NY 2pm August 1 Guernsey Memorial Library Norwich, NY 7pm August 2 Lang Memorial Library Cato, NY 2pm August 2 Johnson Memorial Library Endicott, NY 7pm August 3 Belfast Free Library Belfast, ME 2pm August 3 Wilton Free Library Wilton, ME 6pm August 4 Smyth Public Library Candia, NH 7pm August 7 Hubbard Free Library Hallowell, ME 2pm August 9 Hampstead Public Library Hampstead, NH 2pm August 10 Pierson Library Shelburne, VT 1pm August 10 Cook Memorial Library Tamworth, NH 7pm August 11 Croton Public Library Croton, MA 6:30pm August 12 North Kingstown Library North Kingstown, RI 7pm August 13 Westport Public Library Westport, CT 2pm August 15 Weedsport Library Weedsport, NY 7pm September 10 Sea Music Festival 2005 San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park San Francisco, CA September 23 Aquarian Charter School Anchorage, AK 1pm September 28 Crawford Elementary School Eielson AFB, AK October 29 JFK Library

KAREN MUELLER PO Box 80565 Minneapolis, MN 55408 651 649-4493 (voice mail) karen@karenmueller.com

Vallejo, CA 2pm

www.karenmueller.com Pro-File: AO July '93 Performance schedule: May 6-8 Lone Star State Dulcimer Festival Oakdale Park Campground Glen Rose, TX July 24-29 Heritage Dulcimer Camp Autoharp Mini-Class Parkville, MO September 30 - October 1 Nutmeg Dulcimer Festival 1108 Whitney Avenue Hamden, CT Info: 203-248-2053

ANN NORRIS PO Box 1781 Quitman, TX 75783 817 821-4166 travelersn2@hotmail.com Pro-File: AQ Spring 2005



Ann Norris

Ann Norris is a Texas gal who won the Texas State Autoharp Championship and the coveted International Autoharp Championship in 2002.

She and her husband. Jeff, travel full time in their RV and go to music fstivals all over America. They both MIKE SEEGER sing and perform with their instruments and teach workshops at many of the festivals they attend.

She performs regularly when they are at their Texas home for churches, clubs, businesses and music theaters. She teaches a beginner's jam each month and is known for "infecting" many while on the road with the desire to begin playing the autoharp. Performance schedule: May 5-8 Pickin' in the Park Village Creek State Park Wynne, AR May 15

Cumberland Presby. Church

10:45am & 1:30pm

Denton, TX

July 11-14 Gold Rush Days Buena Vista, CO July 15 - September 15 Friday Evenings TBA Creekside Cafe Buena Vista, CO July 15 - September 15 Mondays TBA Autoharp classes First Christian Church Buena Vista, CO September 22-25 Southeastern Dulcimer Society Festival Silsbee, TX November 3-6 Deep Fork Festival Chandler, OK

LUCILLE REILLY **Shadrach Productions** PO Box 7338

Denver, CO 80207 thedulcimerlady@juno.com www.thedulcimerlady.com Pro-File: AQ April '92 Performance schedule: May 21

Benet Hill 7pm Colorado Springs, CO

TOM SCHROEDER

300 W 113th Street Kansas City, MO 64114 anartauto@hotmail.com Pro-File: AQ October '88 Performance schedule: May 20-21 Jubilee of Acoustic Music Longview Comm. College Kansas City, MO

c/o Mitch Greenhill (agent) 1671 Appian Way Santa Monica, CA 90401 310 451-0767 Fax: 310 458-6005 mitchg@folkloreproductions. Pro-File: AQ January '89 Performance schedule: June 18-19 Clearwater Festival www.clearwaterfestival.org Croton-on-Hudson, NY July 8-10 High Mountain Hay Fever Westcliff, CO www.highmountainfever.org August 20 Bard Music Festival Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 845-759-7900

www.bard.edu/bmf September16-17 Berkeley Old-Time Music 510-848-5018 Berkeley, CA www.berkeleyoldtimemusic.

BILL & LAURIE SKY W/ VICKI YOUNG

PO Box 70060 Nashville, TN 37207 615 859-1419 billandlauriesky@hotmail. Pro-File: AQ April '90 May 6 Spring Bank Ferry Festival Doddridge, AR May 7-11 Autoharp Jamboree (Laurie) Ozark Folk Center Mountain View, AR May 14 - 7pm Saturday Night in the Valley Cochise, AZ May 15 - 8am & 10:30am Wynne Chapel Cochise, AZ May 15 - 5pm Douglas Foursquare Church Douglas, AZ May 21 - 2pm Rebel Park State Commemorative Area Amphitheater Marthaville, LA June 4 - 7pm The Outback Amphitheater Anderson, MO

DREW SMITH

FanFair - 10am to 4pm

June 9-11

Nashville, TN

529 Ardmore Road Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ 07423 201 444-2833 drewharpsmith@netzero.net Pro-File: AQ July '89 Performance schedule: May 6-8 Indian Neck Festival Falls Village, CT May 25 Dellridge Center Paramus, NJ May 27-29 Philadelphia Folksong Society "Spring Thing" Performing & Workshops Kintnerville, PA June 10-12 Birds of a Feather Festival Westbrook, ME June 24-26

CA Summer Solstice Festival

Soka University Calabasas, CA July 1 Cypress Gardens 2pm Palisades, NY July 9 Elmwood Park town park Elmwood Park, NJ 7pm July 22-24 Cranberry Dulcimer Gather-Workshops & Performances Binghamton, NY August 3-10 Appalachian String Band Festival "Ben Borscht & the Beats" band Clifftop, WV August 10-16 Galax Old Fiddlers Conven-August 14, Evening, autoharp competition: August 15, 10:30am Autoharp Workshop Felts Park, Galax, VA

JO ANN SMITH 6408 Baylor Drive Bartlesville,OK 74006

918 333-7586 jsmith@autoharpist.com http://www.autoharpist.com Pro-File: AQ Spring 2004 Performance schedule: June 10-18 OK Mozart International Festival Bartlesville, OK June 24-25 Skiatook Lake Bluegrass Fest Performances w/"Pocket Change" Stoney Ridge Campground Skiatook, OK www.srcamp.com July7-9 Summerfest Pre-festival workshop on Thursday Autoharp workshops & performances Joplin, MO

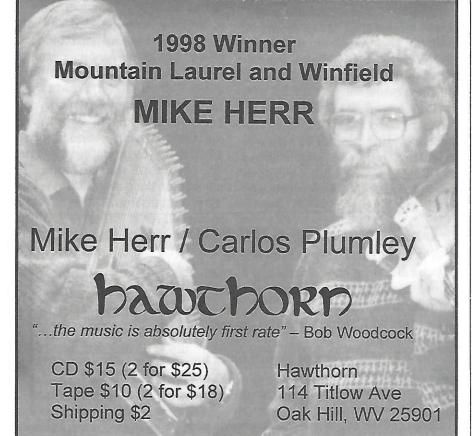
IVAN STILES 1585 State Road Phoenixville, PA 19460 610-935-9062 pickeringbend@worldlynx. net

www.ivanstiles.com Pro-File: AQ October '88 Performance schedule: July 3-8 Beginning A'harp Workshop John C. Campbell Folk School Brasstown, NC www.folkschool.org July 8-10 Musical Saw Workshop John C. Campbell Folk School Brasstown, NC www.folkschool.org September 3 The Joyful Noise Coffeehouse Royersford, PA www.thejoyfulnoise.org

CHARLES WHITMER
291 Scarborough Dr. #1109
Conroe, TX 77384
936 441-0133
cw75@earthlink.net
Pro-File: AQ April '93
Performance schedule:
May TBA
Gospel Autoharp Workshop

The Woodlands, TX May 7 Lone Star State Dulcimer Festival Autoharp workshop AM & Performance PM Glen Rose, TX June 7-11 Autoharp Jamboree Ozark Folk Center Mountain View, AR June 14-17 Advanced Autoharp Week workshop Ozark Folk Center Mountain View, AR June 21-24 Beginner Autoharp Week workshop Ozark Folk Center Mountain View, AR June 28 - July 1 Intermediate Autoharp Week Workshop Ozark Folk Center Mountain View, AR July 21-23 Bayou City Old Time Music & Dulcimer Festival Workshops/Performances Houston, TX

For continual updates and additions to Pro-Files' schedules check www.autoharpquarterly.com. Click on Pro-Files



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AUTOHARP CONCERTS -A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR GREAT SHINDIGS

BY TINA LOUISE BARR

of us living and breathing in chordthe instrument's place in our lives. A concert offers an opportunity for performers to "strut their stuff" for appreciative ears. For many listeners, it creates a newly found awareness of the autoharp as a professional instrument. For others, watching the performers provides motivation in stretching one's own musical boundaries. And for some, the event fulfills a basic need to just go out somewhere and hear good music.

This article touches briefly on the "real world" aspects of producing a concert, with the autoharp in mind. Most of the following suggestions would also apply in putting on other types of music events. I shall focus on some of the main issues thatt can make producing a concert a unique and rewarding experience.

In the organizational phase of determining what type of event you plan to hold, the interests of the audience you expect to attend is a basic factor in choosing a venue. Do you belong to any folk music associations or autoharp clubs? If so, you've already got supportive folks who will do what they can to help make things work. If a general-interest audience is also whom you expect to draw to the event, then your budget might need to allow for a larger venue with some paid advertising.

The size of the venue depends on the minimum number of tickets you expect to sell. If your community offers a small concert hall for rent, book it as far in advance as possible. A large concert hall rental most likely will be beyond one's budget. For this, you may need help from a non-profit group to sponsor the event for you. They can also offer assistance in putting together the event, in exchange for a "split of the door."

Churches are another option for rental. Your advertising will need to

The autoharp concert, for most specify that the event is open to the public. Small clubs and coffeehouses ed-zither land, is a logical branch of may help to take up the slack in advertising costs, but the bustle of business activity during the music can be distracting. You know what I mean - suddenly finding improvisations for Planxty Espresso and Table For Six.

House concerts are an increasingly popular and cost-effective approach for folk musicians to use in a smaller, intimate setting. For autoharp performers it requires minimal. if any, sound reinforcement. The drawback is that the venue is smaller (unless the governor is serving as your host). The benefit is that expenses are reduced and traveling mustay on their itinerary.

Hirng the right performers for a concert, in my experience, has always been the best part of producing an event. These days, the doors are opening for more autoharp musicians to perform. Many proficient autoharp performers are ready for this, as representatives of a specialized field that will benefit from the added exposure.

Determining a price for admission to the concert is based on regional economy, the number of performers and mostly on what people would be willing to pay for a similar type of event. A conservative approach will

keep your budget within control. The following example is one safe and simple formula that might apply to a small event:

Example Only:

Projected Minimum Ticket Sales minus Actual Expenses

Small venue capacity: 50 Minimum Expected Attendance 30

Budget: \$75.00 **Ticket Price Each** \$15.00 30 X \$15 - \$75 - Percentage to Door - Performers Pay = What's Left

As you can see, a plan for minisicians can incorporate an overnight mal risk combines a fine balance between fixing a realistic ticket price and arranging for adequate compensation for the performers, as well as figuring in your own time and expense in organizing the event.



Understanding CHORDS

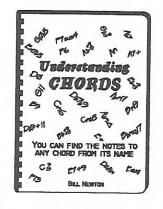
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Hazel Stultz

Autoharp: Hazel Stultz

The Wildwood Flower Autoharp: Bobbi Roberts

Mountain Music Harper Autoharp: Bobbi Roberts

Soul Of a Harper Autoharp: Marc Gunn

Memories Of Middle Earth Autoharp: Marc Gunn

Songs Of Ireland Autoharp: Marc Gunn

All of the above are available in the MarketPlace.

At Peace With Nathalie Autoharp: Nathalie Forrest

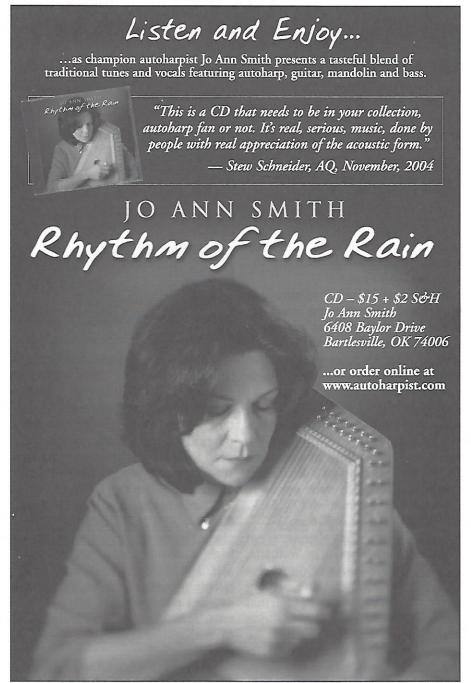
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Picker's Portrait

featuring Jeff Dantzler Harp Doctor

From Jeff's wife, Rebecca:

I never get tired of people telling me how talented my husband is. When they hear him playing the autoharp and ask how long he's been playing, I can proudly say for less than one year. These same people are amazed because of how well he plays; however, I am not surprised because I know how musically gifted he is. Musically gifted is such an appropriate adjective for Jeff Dantzler because God has given him the wonderful gift of music.

Jeffrey grew up in Harleyville, SC, a small town near the coast. He has had many musical influences in his life, his most influential being his mother. Ann Dantzler has been a church musician for 45 years. She is currently the church organist at Limestone Baptist. Other musical influences in his life include his maternal grandparents and aunts. God, family and music have always been the central focus in Jeff's life. He is trying to instill these same values in his three sons - Brantley (7), Jackson (3) and Samuel (newborn).

Jeff is the music minister at Mountain View Baptist in Walhalla, SC and also the leader of our praise team. He loves singing and playing the harmonica and piano, but felt that our praise team needed something else. After some on-line research, the autoharp caught his attention. His first autoharp was a 15-chord ChromAharp purchased from E-bay. When it arrived, it was not in playing condition. It needed to be tuned and was missing some strings. He was disappointed, but after more online research, he found Bob Lewis. We were surprised to find that Bob lived only 15 minutes away from us. What a blessing! Jeff drove over and had him install new strings and tune his ChromAharp. Jeff and Bob quickly became "harp buddies" and began attending Bluegrass jams together.



Jeff with sons Brantley & Jackson

After hearing Bob play diatonic 'harp at a jam, Jeff came home and insisted on learning to play diatonic autoharp. He had learned an important lesson from his first autoharp purchaase. He quickly realized the need for a reliable source of properly set-up used autoharps. Based on this realization, Harp Doctor was born.

Since his first autoharp purchase, autoharping has become Jeff's passion. He strives to go beyond his high standards he has set for himself. He has done something many people never do - he has turned his musical passion into a full-time career. Jeff Dantzler has truly been blessed with musical gifts.

And, from Jeff:

After high school, I started Clemson University where I received my bachelor's degree in animal science in 1998. I started working full time for the computer center at CU in '98. In 1996, I met my wife, Rebecca, and we got married and started a family and became involved in music ministry.

It all started when my mom gave their 'har me a harmonica for Christmas in happy. I 1997. I learned to play pretty quickly and began playing in church. Then of the authe song director and his pianist wife (Editor's page 1.)

piano by ear and Rebecca started leading. We were there a few years then moved to another church for 1 year and now have been at our present church for nearly 3 years. I lead the music, play keyboard and piano and play harmonica and autoharp regularly. I also lead the praise team. I greatly enjoy it.

Autoharp friends: Bob Lewis and Gene Griner.

Current favorite autoharpist: Mary Umbarger.

Age: 31

Work for Clemson U. installing computer network equipment.

Wife: Rebecca

Have 1 younger brother and 1 older

ister.

Parents: Allen and Ann Dantzler Other hobbies: woodworking and gardening

We now live in Seneca, SC where we moved after falling in love with the area.

I play autoharp in church, at the nursing home for our nursing home ministry and at local jams. I also play for my sons' school parties when I can. I enjoy playing hymns, bluegrass gospel and traditional folk songs on my 'harps. I have a 1975 Sunburst OS single key F 'harp, a cherry red 70's OS FCG diatonic with no sound hole, a single key A diatonic Model A re-issue and an Ab Eb Bb OS Educator for playing hymns in the flats. I converted all my 'harps to diatonic. My favorite 'harp at present is my single key F 'harp. I really love the fullness and volume I get from diatonic 'harps. I do play the chromatics I sell and enjoy playing them as well. My favorite part about autoharp work and sales is the satisfaction it brings. Everyone loves their 'harps and I love making people happy. I also enjoy meeting and getting to know all the wonderful people of the autoharp community.

(Editor's note: Check out Jeff's ad on page 1.)

Linda Huber's

Simply Classic

"Spring" from The Four Seasons Vivaldi's

"The Four Seasons." The composition starts with this part, so it will probably be more familiar than the are contrasts in the dynamics. Meaportion I did in the last issue. It is sures 5, 6 & 7 and 11, 12, 13 and 14

The classical arrangement for 10 and 14, the fiddles, uh I mean the fore them. They are sort of an echo. this issue is another selection from violins, have a trill. I have slowed it down and shortened it to make it more playable on the autoharp. There also much easier to play! In measures should be softer than what comes be-

The tempo moves right along. I have indicated chords for diatonic playing. Rather than clutter the page with lots of marks, I have just indicated the chord changes.

Spring from The Four Seasons

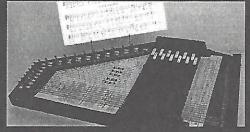
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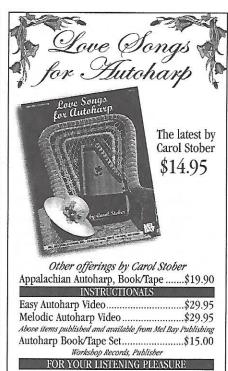


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CHORD THEORY FOR AUTOHARPERS... PART 3

by Robert D. Grappel

The "Circle of Fifths"

Western music. Each fifth resolves to the "circle of fifths." The circle of another note that is, itself, the fifth fifths is illustrated below. (Yes, the

of another interval. The entire 12note chromatic scale can be viewed The fifth interval is basic to as a sequence of fifths - this is termed

figure is a rectangle instead of a circle, but it is easier to do a rectangle in Microsoft Word formatting!)

| C | G | D | A |
|----|----|----|----|
| F | | | Е |
| Bb | | | В |
| Eb | Ab | C# | F# |

Circle of Fifths

Start anywhere in the sequence you can find the fifth by moving one step clockwise. "G" is the fifth chord for "C," "E" is the fifth chord for "A," and so on. Similarly, moving counter-clockwise around the sequence yields the transitions of seventh chords. "G7" resolves to "C," "B7" resolves to "E," and so on.

Note that this "circle of fifths" forms the basis for the ordering of the chord bars on most autoharps. The major chords are in the "circle of fifths" sequence, because you nearly always need the "V" chord when you're playing a tune in the key of the "I" chord. Similarly, the seventh chords on the autoharp are nearly always arranged so that the "V7" chord is near its related "I" chord - resulting in their taking the "circle of fifths" ordering as well, just offset by a fifth from the major chords. The minor chords are also ordered in the "circle of fifths" sequence - using the "related" or "relative" minor that was discussed earlier. There ll be more about minor chords a bit later, too.

The Most-Used Chord Combination: I-IV-V-I

By far, the most-commonly used chord combination in Western music (especially for autoharp music) is the chords are also the simplest way to

I-IV-V-I set. The reason for this can harmonize (accompany) a tune in a be made clear by thinking about which notes of the major scale are in each chord. The "I" major chord has the first, third and fifth notes of the scale. (It also has the eighth note (the octave of the first note.)) The "V" major chord has the fifth, seventh and second notes of the scale. What are we missing if we want to play the whole scale? We need the fourth and sixth notes of the scale - we get these from the IV major chord. Hence the I, IV and V major chords form the simplest chord set that will permit the playing of the entire major scale. Also, note that there are no notes outside the selected major scale in any of these three chords. There is no chance for the autoharp player to sound any "wrong notes" (not in the selected scale) when playing these three chords.

The following table illustrates how to play the major scale using just the I, IV and V chords. The C and G scales are also included as examples. The autoharp player should practice this sequence forwards and backwards until it becomes almost second nature. This isn t the only way to play the major scale, but it is the simplest. Note that the V7 chord may be substituted for the five chord in most cases. These

particular scale.

Continued on next page.



| Scale Note | Chord | Note in C | Chord in C | Note in G | Chord in G |
|------------|-------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| I | I | C | С | G | G |
| II | V | D | G | A | D |
| III | I | Е | С | В | G |
| IV | IV | F | F | С | C |
| V | I | G | С | D | G |
| VI | IV | A | F | Е | C |
| VII | V | В | G | F# | D |
| VIII | I | C | C | G | G |

Playing a Major Scale using the I-IV-V-I Chord Progression

Using Minor Chords in the Progresion

section on minor chord formation, each major chord has a related (relaits three notes. The root note of the related minor chord is always one step higher than the fifth of the major chord. Hence the related (relative) minor is the VIm (or vi) chord of the major scale. The VI minor chord can be used to play (harmonize) the I, III, and VI notes. The VI minor chord provides an alternative to the purely major-chord I, IV,

As was illustrated in the earlier minor chord has no component notes outside the selected major scale. The I -VIm-IV-V progression is quite tive) minor chord that shares two of common - think Heart and Soul or many 1950 s "Doo Wop" tunes.

Another commonly-used minor chord is the IIIm (or iii) chord. The IIIm chord is the relative minor for the V chord of the selected scale. It contains the third, fifth and seventh notes of the selected scale. The progression from the VIm to the IIIm chord is also a fifth. Many tunes combine the I-IV-V with the V, I progression, adding interest and VIm-IIIm to switch the mood bedifferent tonal coloration. Note that, tween "happy" and "sad." Like the like the I, IV and V chords, the VI I-IV-V majors and the VIm chords,

the IIIm chord also has no notes outside the selected major scale.

A third less-commonly used minor chord is the IIm (or ii) chord. This chord contains the second, fourth and sixth notes of the selected scale. It also has no notes outside the selected major scale.

The table below illustrates which minor chords provide which notes in the major scale. The chords for the key of C are also provided as examples. Note that the selected major scale can be played with a progression of only three minor chords.

| Note in Scale | Minor Chords | Note in C | Chords in C |
|---------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|
| I | VIm | С | Am |
| II | IIm | D | Dm |
| III | VIm, IIIm | Е | Am, Em |
| IV | IIm | F | Dm |
| V | IIIm | G | Em |
| VI | VIm, IIm | A | Am, Dm |
| VII | IIIm | В | Em |
| VIII | VIm | C | Am |

Playing a Major Scale using Minor Chords

As was discussed in the section seventh-chord formation above (and the discussion of the "circle of fifths"), seventh chords are typically used for transitions to the fourth note of the scale. They should

be used carefully, since their "extra" fourth note lies outside the major scale and can sound jarring. The I7 chord transitions to the IV chord, so it is often used to augment the I-IV-V-I progression..

The II7 chord transitions to the V chord (via the "circle of fifths), so it is sometimes used in "turnaround" chord progressions such as II7 - V7 - I. Longer "turn-around" progressions follow the circle of

fifths even farther (e.g., VI7-I7-V7-I). Blues tunes sometimes convert the I-IV-V-I progression to all sevenths --I7-IV7-V7-I7.

Seventh chords can be used in place of their major chord of the same name (e.g., D7 for D), so long as the special feeling given by the extra note is desirable (or the extra note is not sounded at all), Experiment with this and see what you like best.

Using "Unusual" Chords in the Progression

Thus far, we have tried to keep the notes sounding in the chosen chords within the major scale(except for the sevenths). This need not always be so. Some music requires notes outside the selected scale (called "accidentals"). These "foreign" notes are typically indicated by a special sharp or flat symbol next to the note in the musical notation. If the note would normally be flat or sharp in the selected scale, the musical notation would use a special "natural" symbol to remove the sharp or flat temporarily. Some "sea shanties" incorporate a flatted VII chord (e.g., a Bb in the scale of C) for special effect.

Summary

This should be enough to get you well started on the road to playing your autoharp. There is much more to chord theory - other chord families, chords with more notes, etc. In the final analysis, if it sounds good, play it that way!





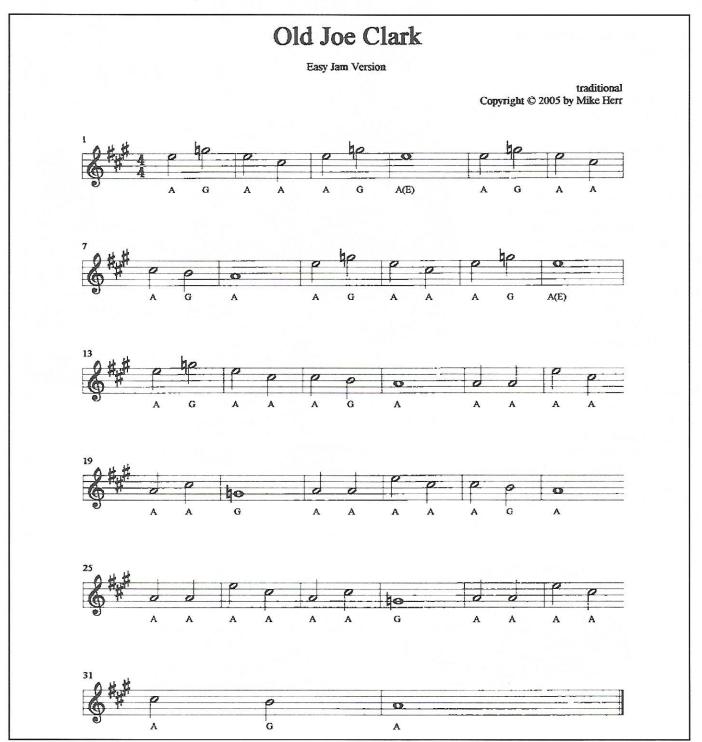
jam 'n bare bones

tune that it's hard to imagine a weekend pickin' party going by without of those quirks of the autoharp, as playing it. I often use it when I'm I've mentioned before, that you use trying out an autoharp at a luthier's the three chord bars in the key of D table, or when I'm testing the tuning (A,D and G) but you are basing the for my 'harp.

This is such a classic old-time any key, of course, but I've chosen intermediate note in the Harder Ver-"A modal" for this rendition. It's one tune on the chord of A. The D chord Old Joe Clark can be played in is used as a passing chord to get an

with Mike Herr

sion, and it's not used at all in the Easy Version. It's the G natural instead of the G# that gives the tune it's distinctive old-timey feel and, of course, you are using the G chord to get this note.



there is an A followed by an (E). For those autoharps that have a full E or even a partial E (missing the G#), playing this chord instead of the A will lend be found by going to the AQ website: a bit of intrigue and interest to the rendition. Some old-timey bands play this E

In the fourth and twelfth measures, with the E chord as the rhythm, back-up AQ. chord as a matter of course.

> updated or reminded, these versions can recordings for the website a bit faster http://www.autoharpquarterly.com and tunes. Buckle up the seat belts and hang clicking on Songs From The Current on!

Lastly, this is such a fun "honker" For those readers who need to be of a tune that I'm going to be doing the than I have with some of the previous



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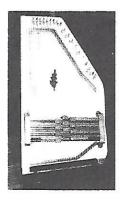
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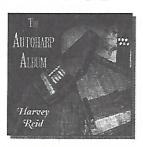
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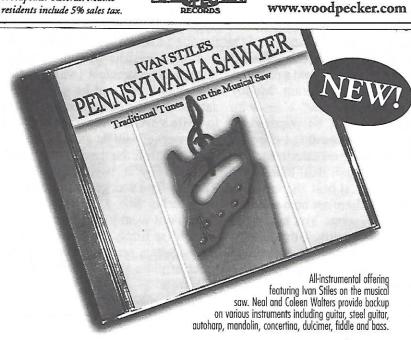
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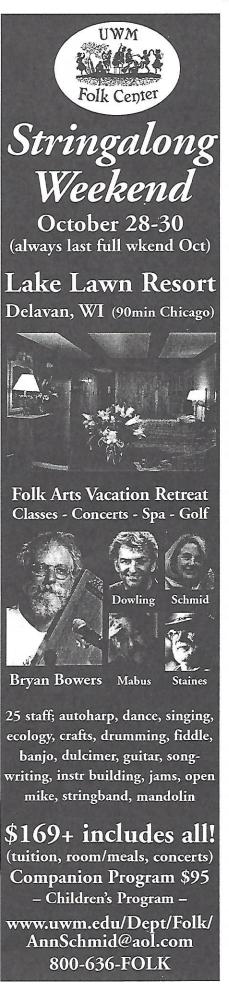
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A Study in 12 bar Blues by John Horner

blues!"

This was the class assignment given to us by Cathy Britell (our instructor and mentor) following an evening of studying all the aspects and variations of "the blues." I should explain that the "class" is a band of faithful followers that has been studying under Cathy from "Beginning Autoharp" in the spring semester of 2001 through till the present day, and by now we have definitely reached "Advanced Autoharp" status. Throughout the years Cathy has never failed to present us with a constant stream of new challenges, each one aimed at getting us to explore new fields. As an example, my first "challenge" at that opening spring semester in 2001 was, "you are going to sing and accompany yourself." I remember protesting that I couldn't play and sing at the same time. I subsequently found out (to my surprise), that I could do both with the right incentive, and more importantly, with the right environment. There is no such thing as embarrassment when you have the support and encouragement of classmates that are all sharing the same experience, especially when venturing into something new.

The point that I want to make in this article is that we all need to take risks and try something new in order to grow, rather than sticking to the "safe" pieces with which we feel comfortable. I hope this article will provide you with an idea of the steps that I had to go through after accepting this "Triple dog dare!" to compose my very first song.

I took a hard look at what I had to work with. On the negative side, was the fact that I can painstakingly translate notes but I cannot "sight read" music. I play by ear. If pre-

"Write me a song in twelve bar sented with a new piece of music, I have to get the tune in my head and only then can I pick out the melody. Nevertheless, I took heart in that this never deterred Paul McCartney!

On the positive side, I had become fairly adept at using a program called "Music Time" on my computer, to read the music for me. I punched in the notes and the program played the music in any key, tempo or instrument that I desired. I have a good ear for music and rarely go without some tune buzzing around in my head. I've also found that if I listen to a repetitive sequence of chords (like a mantra) I tend to start filling in the gaps with a tune of my own making. I am also fairly adept at making puns and constructing rhyme.

Cathy had provided us with some excellent examples of blues on a CD, but I decided to immerse myself still further. Luckily, PBS aired a program on "The Blues" featuring Muddy Waters. This was "raw" blues with no embellishments, as opposed to other blues examples that I encountered which had been performed in "ragtime" two-step. Real blues have a slow methodical beat and are sung from the gut! There are no happy life stories in blues songs. You have to be a real loser to qualify. I listened intently to the lyrics, which seemed to float across the melody rather than stay locked in to every note. I also noticed that the solid repetitive blues

chord structure was what really grabbed my attention.

Having absorbed enough of the real thing, and to get in the mood, I sat down and started strumming the same twelve bar sequence over and over at a steady four beat to the bar C CCC, F7 F7 CC, G7 F7 CC. While playing, I started to think up a good opening line. A lot of blues seemed to start with "I woke up this morning" and "feeling like a junk yard dog" came to mind, but I felt that this may have been done before. I needed something original, so I decided to sleep on it.

The creative juices must have been really bubbling overnight because the following morning, as I climbed into the shower, an idea began to build for the worst day in the life of a real loser! This disaster had three acts; he gets up late, gets thrown off a streetcar (which makes him even later), and he gets fired! I sat down at the computer and started to write a six-line verse for each act. This worked out at one line every two bars for the twelve-bar verse, followed by a twelve-bar chorus. The fun time was getting it to rhyme every other line. I was surprised at how fast it went together, once I had the outline firmly in my head. All it lacked was a surprise ending, which I put in place of the final chorus as follows:

Verse 1:

I woke up this morning, looked at my clock, Said "Shoot I guess I'm late again, where'd I put my socks?" No time for a shave, I looked like a bum! I grabbed a stale doughnut, to eat on the run. Drank down last night's coffee, grabbed my coat and hat, Flew down the stairs, and tripped over the cat! Chorus for verses 1 and 2: Got those late again, fired again, hole in my pocket blues (repeat) Gotta find me a good woman to tell my troubles to.

Verse 2:

Hopped on a streetcar, trying to save time
The Conductor looked at me and said "That'll be a dime."
Reached in my pocket, my hand went right on through.
I said "Please mister conductor, what am I gonna do?"
He said "That's just too bad son, no use your talking.
Better get off my car and just start walking!"
Chorus:

Final verse:

Ran to my job, got there all hot and tired.
My boss was waiting at the door. Said "Son, you are so fired!
Just look at yourself, you're beyond all hope,
Your pants are so holey, you should send them to the Pope!
Find a good woman, to look after you.
Get you up in the morning and patch a hole or two."
Final chorus:
I said "Thanks for the advice boss, your words are oh so true!

I said "Thanks for the advice boss, your words are oh so true! That's such really good advice boss, 'specially coming from you! I don't need another woman, I'm paying alimony to two!"

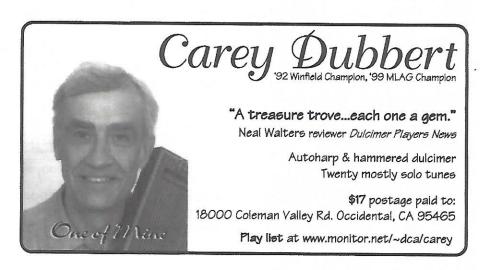
Writing the poem went fairly smoothly. I ran into difficulty while trying to settle on a common melody that would satisfy the words of all the verses. I started by reciting the first verse while playing the blues accompaniment. A tune started to emerge following the bounce or phrasing of the words rather like rap. My biggest headache was manipulating the note lengths by trial and error to meet the phrasing of the words. I found that the Music Time program was invaluable during this stage. Once I had a group of notes phrased correctly, I could copy the phrase and repeat it rather than rewriting every note. The next obstacle was getting the words to the other verses to fit these notes. In some cases I had to resort to floating the words across certain note passages in the way that I had heard in the raw PBS blues performances. It was a lot of work to cram into the two weeks that I had before my performance was due at our next class, but I finally managed it!

To give you an idea of how the finished product sounds, I have prepared two recordings. The first recording was made at the "shaky" premier performance before the class, a moment at which I felt most vulnerable. The result, however, was

a "magic moment" that can never be repeated and illustrates what I have said previously about the need for a supportive environment. The second recording is a more recent rendition, in which I have honed out most of the rough spots. These two recordings, Class mp3 and New mp3 are available for download and playback from a special website that I have set up at: http://www.geocities.com/john_horner@prodigy.net/autoharpclass.html.

We've had numerous challenges from Cathy since this one. My favorite was "Here's a cheesy romantic chord pattern out of which you can fashion a song or tune that is ... well, really quite beautiful!" This resulted in my second attempt at song writing, entitled "Soup Of the Evening," based on the "Turtle Soup" poem from Alice In Wonderland. But that's a whole different article.





Late Again, Fired Again, Hole In My Pocket Blues!

(A Study In Twelve Bar Blues by John Horner)





FAQs about Restringing the Autoharp

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Remember that every autoharp — from a yard sale find to the finest custom model — can benefit substantially from regularly-scheduled restringing.

How do I restring my autobarp?

Instructions on how to restring your autoharp appear in *The Autoharp Owner's Manual*, edited by

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Interaction

You Are Invited To Participate In An Interactive Lesson With ANN NORRIS

AnnNorris is a native Texas gal who won the Texas State Autoharp Championship and the coveted International Autoharp Championship in 2002. She and her husband, Jeff, travel full-time in their RV and go to music festivals all over America. They both sing and perform with their instruments and teach workshops at many of the festivals they attend.

Ann's musical background began with piano lessons at age 5 and continued with vocal training in high school. In fact, it was in the school choir that Ann met Jeff, and their relationship has continued since then. She has been playing autoharp for about 12 years.

When they are at their Texas home, Ann performs regularly for churches, clubs, businesses and music theaters. She teaches a beginners' jam each month, and is known for "infecting" many whileon the road with the desire to begin playing the autoharp. Her "down home" lingo and sense of humor keep her classes fun and easy to understand, both for the beginner and those who are already adept at playing the autoharp.



Ann Norris

Student Orders Lesson Tape From Instructor



Instructor Sends Lesson Tape To Student Student has choice to go on to:

Student Records Lesson And Sends To Instructor



Instructor Critiques Tape And Sends Reply To Student

HERE'S HOW THE INTERACTION TWO-PART FORMAT WORKS

have a personalized lesson from a top- to go on to notch player.

Part One

Interaction is your opportunity to to the instructor. Then decide if you want The instructor will listen to your record-

Part Two

Record your rendition of the lesson Send \$8 to the instructor for a tape on the reverse side of the tape along of the lesson including the instructor's with any questions, and return it to the you. You will receive your personalized rendition of the tune. Make check payable instructor with an additional check for \$8. reply in 3 to 4 weeks.

ing 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

An Interaction lesson with

Ann Norris

PO Box 1781, Quitman, Texas 75783

"Choosing Chords for Arrangements"

I have often been asked to explain how I choose the chords I use in my arrangements. Since I am primarily an "ear player," I never gave it much thought. But now that I have addressed the question analytically, I have a formula you can use to create your own arrangements. It will work for both chromatic and diatonic autoharps.

My 21-bar chromatic 'harp is set up like this:

$$C^{\circ}7$$
 F7 $C7$ G7 D7 A7 E7 $C\#^{\circ}7$ F C G D A E $D^{\circ}7$ Dm Am Em Bm F#m B7

I then made a chart that shows all the notes that make up each chord. You will have to make a chart for the chords you have on your 'harp.

| | $C^{o}7 =$ | C D# F# A | C = | CEG | Bm = | B D F# |
|-------|----------------|-----------|------|-------|-------|-----------|
| 20000 | $C\#^{o}7 =$ | C# E G A# | Am = | ACE | A7 = | ACEG |
| | $D^{o}7 =$ | DFG#B | G7 = | GBDF | A = | A C# E |
| | F7 = | FACD# | G = | GBD | F#m = | F# A C# |
| | $\mathbf{F} =$ | FAC | Em = | EGB | E7 = | EG#BD |
| | Dm = | DFA | D7 = | DF#AC | E = | EG#B |
| | C7 = | CEGA# | D = | DF#A | B7 = | B D# F# A |
| | | | | | | |

I found that if the MELODY note was in ANY chord... then it was a "potential" chord choice, even if that chord is not normally used in the tune to enhance the melody. So, if the melody of the tune is not compromised beyond recognition by an alternative chord choice... why not try it!! Included on the interaction tape for this lesson are the steps I took to make my chord choices for the tune "Home on the Range."

Now, if you want to try to arrange a tune of your choice, KEEP IT SIMPLE. Learn to do this with a three-chord tune you have "cemented" in your head. Arrange the tune YOUR way!! Have fun and be CREATIVE!!

If you don't have an aversion to a lot of button-pushing, you may enjoy the new sounds.

HOME ON THE RANGE



Critic's Choice



Stew's Choice

Stew Schneider

Les and Gwen Gustafson-Zook Autoharp: Les Gustafson-Zook

Reviewed by Aunt Sukey with secretarial assistance from Stew Schneider

Feels Like Home • Higher Ground On Healing River - Fifty Miles Of Elbow Room * WestVirginia, My Home *Another Year *Calling All the Children Home • Thanksging Eve I Will Arise ◆ I'll Fly Away ◆ 'Til the End Of the World * Keep On the Sunny Side * This World Is Not My Home * Hush While the Little Ones Sleep

Feels Like Home: Lovely, lovely instrumental and vocal work.

Higher Ground: Bit too fast, vocal harmonies not well developed. Too much boogy.

On Healing River: Les's beautiful picking. Vocals a bit weaker. Together they sound great.

Fifty Miles Of Elbow Room: Really cooks. Nice vocals when together. Les's 'harp is great. Nice banjo.

West Virginia, My Home: Wonderful 'harp! Lovely singing.

Another Year: Lap dulcimer. Les's voice sounds very good. Very nice singing.

Calling All the Children Home -- Thanksgiving Eve: Great picking. Think it's mis-labeled, though.

I Will Arise: Oh, well sung, Gwen. Beautiful harmony. Just gor-

I'll Fly Away: Nice singing by Les. Wonderful autoharp.

'Til the End Of the World: Happy, bouncy tune well sung and played.

done but won't replace the Carter original.

This World Is Not My Home: Nice lope. Good Jew's Harp.

Hush While the Little Ones Sleep : Nice lullaby.

"All right, Les and Gwen," is about as close a translation as I can come to Aunt Sukey's reaction to their new CD, Home. Aunt Sukey is normally pretty suspicious of homemade recordings, with some exceptions such as Hobo Pie's We Might As Well Be Dead which pretty well sets the bar for homemade recordings. Now she has another. The recording was made in Les and Gwen's home in Indiana and it's just plain lovely.

Of course, Les's playing doesn't really require much comment. Les is a multiple winner, and one of the most "listenable" 'harpers around. On this recording, he plays octave mandolin, banjo, Jew's Harp, mandolin, harmonica, bass, and, of course, autoharp. Gwen joins him with vocal and lovely guitar work.

In just the way that a house, with no family, is an empty thing, Les and Gwen individually, are much less than Les and Gwen together. This is a great partnership, where each fills in the weaknesses of the other. I Will Arise by itself is worth the price of the CD for really beautiful harmony, and the instrumental work throughout is at the top of the pile.

The theme of the CD is Home, and they manage to create a feeling of home so thoroughly and convincingly that you'll find yourself replaying it many times.

Aunt Sukey gives it two ears up, and darned near kicked down the barn on I Will Arise.

Along Came A Giant Autoharp: Adam Miller

Reviewed by Aunt Sukey

When I Was A Little Boy ♦ Who Were the Witches • Twenty Froggies I'm Not Scared Old Bill Pickett + The Three Foolish Piglets . Talking Nau-

Keep On the Sunny Side: Nicely tical • The Brandy Tree • Froggie Went A'Courtin' Simple Gifts Hi Ho Jerum • Little Old Woman All Skin and Bones • To the Gray Whale Ranch • The Coast Of High Barbary * A Horse Named Bill * I Had a Little Nut Tree * The Farmer and the Crow Michael Finnegan • Old Bangum • The Frog Song . When the Rain Comes Down . Wynken, Blinken and

> Aunt Sukey, although it is at times hard to recognize, is, at heart, a softy. She likes spring mornings, and kids, provided they don't do anything provocative, and she particularly likes kid's tunes. There is still a 78 rpm record player and a stack of yellow plastic records in her stall, and I've often heard Big Rock Candy Mountain or some such coming from her barn when she's been alone a while.

> So, she was very interested to receive Adam Miller's Along Came A Spider CD, which contains "Traditional American Folk Songs for Young Folks." Mostly, she enjoyed

> Adam plays guitar on most of the cuts, and autoharp on a few. Interestingly, he also whistles a good bit, and he's very good at it. The tunes are not just traditional, but contain ten composed tunes as well. The arrangements are all very sparse and simple, making them most accessible, both to small children and mules, come to

> Adam's handling of his instruments is pleasant and competent, but won't set anything on fire. Rather, he uses them to provide good, solid backup for his nice baritone. You don't get the sense of instrument and voice battling it out for the glory of the song. Aunt Sukey picked The Coast Of High Barbary as her favorite vocal nuumber, but Wynken, Blinken and Nod is no slouch, either, if I may be allowed an opinion.

> I mentioned that Adam also whistles, and does so very well. Aunt Sukey was particularly taken with the whistling on the first cut.

This is an under appreciated talent, and Adam demonstrates a remarkable ability.

There's some variability to the selections. Some of the composed pieces, like The Brandy Tree or To the Gray Whale Ranch address topics that will be lost on the little ones who are his target audience. Others, like Who Were the Witches, are going to cause some controversy. Some parents will object to suggestions that kids might choose to be witches, and some moms might feel that "there's a little bit of witch in every woman" is not a lyric they d like their young sons to sing. The album notes explain the tune very well, but kids aren t going to read the album notes, and parents may not, either.

Adam also apparently has a tongue that s hinged on both ends. Some of the nonsense lyrics he breezes through would choke an auctioneer. Kids will love them. Froggie Went A Courtin reminds Aunt Sukey of an old Tom and Jerry cartoon with uncle somebody, the folk singer, making guitar strings out of Toms whiskers. Its a great tune, well done.

Overall, Aunt Sukey gave it one ear up. Young kids will really enjoy the nonsense lyrics and sense of fun, but may be put off by some of the selections. Adults and older kids will probably not enjoy it as much.

A Guest Review with Alex Usher

At Peace With Nathalie Autoharp: Rev. Nathalie Forrest

Save Our World • Amazing Grace • Sleep My Child • Movement • Hymn Of Thanks * Farther Along * Shimmering Waters • I Won t Cry • Spring

- Chants Sylvie My Buddy •
- Wayfaring Stranger * 3 Chord Melody • Ode To Friendship • Kumbayah • Children's Love Song • Steal Away * Angels Watching Over Me * O Lord, Have Mercy • Swing Low, Sweet Chariot * The Happy Autoharp * Nobody Knows the Trouble I ve Seen * Life Is Like a Mountain Railroad

heard Rev. Nathalie Forrest perform, you will be amazed at this lady s incredible talent. She has a voice similar to Odetta's in richness and fulllness that drops to more than an octave below middle C. Where Yma Sumac swept up to almost inaudible high notes, Nathalie goes the opposite direction with rich, smooth ease. How nice that it's coupled with a natural musicality. That makes this a recording that's easy to listen to over and over. It's sort of like soaking in a nice hot tub of warmth and loveliness.

I wish there was a program insert with the CD to tell us more about Nathalie, her ministry and her music, but perhaps the music itself does that better than a bushel of words ever could.

She claims her American Indian as well as her Black ancestry proudly. One of my favorite tracks (the only one without autoharp) is Chants, done to the rhythmic accompaniment of bells. I have no idea what the chant is about, but I delight in the playfulness and liquidity of her voice as it weaves around the sure beat.

There are twenty-four tracks on the album with a total playing time of a little over an hour. Most of them are vocals with autoharp accompaniment, but she also plays six of her own solo autoharp compositions. She writes under her Indian name, "Quashawan."

The lyrics of her own songs reflect the wisdom of age, and her assurance that life is beautiful in spite of its down sides. A loving God seems to speak through her as she sings Sleep My Child, and echoes the feelings of everyone who has ever rocked a baby. Although most of the songs on this recording are spiritual in nature, they are not "preachy" or stiffly religious. They are positive and encouraging. I Won t Cry tells us to "Get up, get out, and live." The Hymn Of Thanks is a fine upbeat contemplative song. Save Our World is rightfully worried about our earth and what we are doing to it, but

For those of you who have not even so, it is tempered by encouragement to do the right thing.

> Most of the other songs on the recording are familiar titles, but in performing them Nathalie adds her own unique vocal signature. Her autoharp accompaniments are more than adequate, and played on an always well-tuned instrument.

> The solo autoharp pieces she composed herself are very pleasant. Enjoyable as they are, however, they are dwarfed by her superb vocal performances.

> In other words, this is a CD you will want to own and listen to again and again.

The source for this CD is: Rev. Nathalie Forrest 5751 1/2 Clemson Street Los Angeles, CA 90016 Enclose check or money order for \$15 plus \$2 postage



Tina s Choice

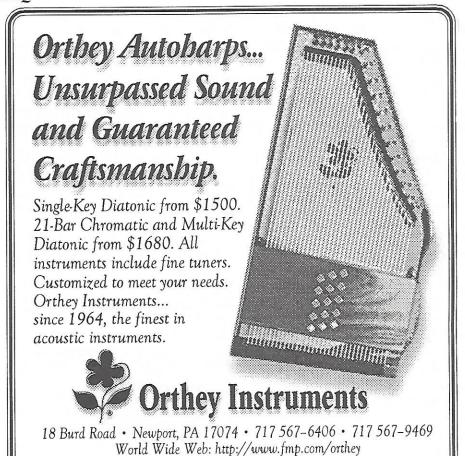
Tina-Louise Barr

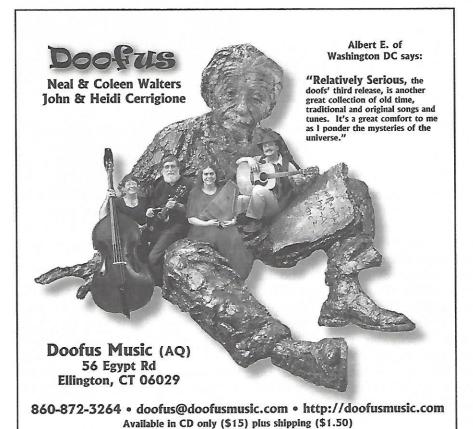
Finger Pickin Pals Autoharp: Les Gustafson-Zook

Texas • Flowers of Edinburgh • Bonaparte Crossing the Rhine *Jaybird & Morgan Magan & Ashgrove & Cielito Lindo • Liberty • Hewlett • Margaret s Waltz • St. Anne s Reel • Westphalia Waltz . Jenny Lind Polka Bonaparte s Retreat Nail That Catfish to the Tree . Midnight On the Water * Cold Frosty Morning * Puncheon Floor

Les Gustafson-Zook is a traveling folk musician and educator who devotes most of his time enriching the lives of others through elementary school presentations. A premier performer in the field of melodic autoharp, Les has recorded eighteen traditional favorites on this Finger Pickin Pals CD.

Les is accompanied by Ray





Frank on guitar. Les and Ray had met at the California Autoharp Gathering in May 2003, where they had decided to get together to jam a few tunes. Several hours worth of tunes later, it was clear to both of them that a creative mix was in the works. When Les returned to California in 2004, the two got together again and recorded Finger Pickin Pals in Ray Frank s home. The result is a remarkable blend of autoharp and guitar. Les uses only his fingernails on the autoharp, creating a mellow but clearly defined melody. Les plays lead autoharp throughout this instrumental recording. The masterful guitar work of Ray Frank is filled in as a rich complement to the autoharp.

Les adeptly sails through each selection with his distinctive style, adding expressive touches. Ray s backup guitar intuitively matches Les musical direction and flow. The complex chords and phrasing that Ray uses on guitar are intriguing choices that turn the listener s ear.

The most striking example of this may be found on *Bonaparte Crossing the Rhine*. The pivotal chords Ray employs on guitar create a stately southern feel for the piece.

Jaybird is an upbeat tune featuring Les fingerpicking on the autoharp. Ray s open guitar tuning provides a tasteful Renaissance accompaniment to the melody in Ashgrove.

Liberty is taken successfully on this fiddle standard, transformed via a Texas swing interpretation on autoharp and guitar.

Les and Ray play a G modal version of *Bonaparte's Retreat*, creating further interest to the selection with a graceful arrangement.

Puncheon Floor is named after a barn floor made for dancing. This tune also is made for dancing, anywhere.

Les Gustafson-Zook and Ray Frank have recorded this collection as a well collaborated team on autoharp and guitar. These two are aptly classified as *Finger Pickin' Pals*, and this CD receives a "both thumbs up" for recommended listening.

Postscripts from 'Harpland

with Mary Umbarger Mary Umbarger 114 Umbarger Road Harmony, NC 28634 Maryonharp@YadTel.net

Each time I sit me down to post this column, I think,"Oh, yes, to be truly fulfilled one must belong." In the company of friends, we belong; among family, we belong; in the effort of good causes, which lead us onward, we belong. The caring, sharing and, may I include, daring necessary in belonging lift us far beyond 'ourselves' and we find the circle of life expanding wider and wider, with enjoyment and understanding because we are a part of something bigger than ourselves!

In the past decade the world has seen the autoharp bloom from a tiny seed sewn in school rooms and Sunday school rooms into a vine of great beauty that twines and flowers all around the globe to give opportunity, joy, purpose and, yes - fulfillment!

Let's share a few ways folk are making this happen.

p. & Lynda Cohen & Bob Grappel have a CD! I have it on good authority that We Have Today is most pleasing. It includes a wide range of styles and human emotion. You are privileged to hear a Gordon Baker baritone 'harp, some Hebrew songs as only Lynda can sing them, songs of humor and songs of pathos. Bob plays two of his MLAG contest pieces. (I'm looking forward to picking up one of these at the MLAG in June.)

p.s.JoAnn Smith's CD, Rhythm Of the Rain, was included in the listing of top albums in February 2005, on the FolkDJ-L website. (Are we proud of her? --- You bet. What a gal!!)

P. & Tina Louise Barr and the Bluegrass Compadres performed in March at the Brookdale Bluegrass Festival near Santa Cruz, CA. Tina and husband, John Gwinner, participated as musician actors in a movie, "Hobo Grove." They also performed live music for a screening of the think they are about ready for Bran-

P.S.Mike Seeger performed with harp break on New Freedom Bell. the Knoxville (TN) Symphony Orchestra on April 17 at the Tazewell High School in Tazewell, VA. It was the world premier of John Hardy's Dream for banjo and orchestra by composer Jonathan Romeo. It was also the U.S. premier of an arrangement of the traditional folk tune, John Hardy, by Mike's father, Charles Seeger, which was written for the It seems I always have some sad CBS Radio Orchestra in 1940. Mike is also well-known for his expertise on the autoharp and has been an inspiration to many as performer and teacher.

p.s. Terry Sanders and friends played for folks at the "Old Time Music Gathering" at Buffalo Springs. One lady told how her live was blest by the concert.

P.S.Rick Melchionno, from Silver P.S. Elaine Wall, Memphis, TN, died Spring, MD was fortunate enough to attend the Advanced Beginner weeklong autoharp workshop at Weatherbury Farm B&B in Avella, PA. He was really impressed with instructor, Bill Schilling. Additional classes will be offered throughout the year in other instruments and future autoharp classes will have Les Gustafson-Zook (May 1-8) and perhaps Bryan Bowers for next year. We need to check this out at www.folkmusic. weatherburyfarm..com

Autoharp sightings:

p.s. Karen Mueller, Tim O'Brien & Darrell Scott sharing their talents at a performance for the attendees at the Sore Fingers Summer School in England. Anyone that has ever heard Karen knows that she can keep up with the best of the best and never miss a string! WOW!

P. S. Todd Crowley's brother, back from a vacation in Florida, brought him an autoharp CD by Brian Symonds. Some will remember Brian as the official photographer at MLAG for several years. It seems he now enjoys conducting tours at one of Florida's state parks. I hope he gets to the Gathering this year - everyone needs to meet him; he is a fine musician, photographer and person. (Ed. note: This issue's cover photo was taken by Brian in 1995.)

movie. (I don't know about you, but I p.s. While listening to the Country Gentlemen on "Bluegrass At Carnegie Hall," someone heard an auto-

P. & Terry Fitzpatrick noticed an autoharp in a picture from the Johnny Carson nostalgic pictures. It was of the wedding of Tiny Tim. It pictured Tiny Tim, Miss Vicki and Johnny. Tiny Tim had an autoharp in his lap. Terry wonders if, perhaps, it was in a ukulele tuning!!

news to report.

p. s. Charlie Gilbert died at home of a heart attack in February. Charlie was the president of the Lost Chords Autoharp Club in Michigan. During the summer his hobo group performed at Deerfield Village in Detroit. He leaves his wife, Delores. All his family and friends will miss him deeply.

recently. Elaine was an avid autoharp player and mother of Larkin Bryant Cohen. Our condolences to her family. She will be greatly missed.

Pros & Cons of autoharp health: Pro:

Lynn , in Iowa gives an unsolicited testimony of relief of pain after surgery. She swears that shortly after returning home from the hospital, she began playing her autoharp and could feel the pain melt away! Lynn, we are sooo glad you are recovering rapidly!

Con:

Pete Daigle asked his friend how things were going with the autoharp. He replied, "Great! I play all the time, but I have to stop now and then and just 'shake my hands.' Pete thinks this condition to be (are you ready for this?) 'HARPAL TUNNEL SYNDROME! Please be warned and be careful!!

I'll wrap things up for this time. May your summer be full, happy, safe and healthy!

And keep those cards, letters (email and snail) and news flashes coming. I want to hear from YOU!

'Harpin' in Harmony, Mary U.

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"Colorado and the West" V
Where I'm Bound V
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The AQ MarketPlace

Songster At Large V Shining Bright Like Gold V J'Attendsveille V Appel d'Airs V Adam Miller

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The MarketPlace, continued

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Autoharp Songbook

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The Water Is Wide (2)

C (C C) G7C///G7 (F F) F C////
The wa-ter is wide, I can-not get o'er
C C G7Am//// Dm Am Dm G7////
Nor do I have white wings to fly
G7 C G7 Em/// (Em Em) Dm Am Am////
Give me a ship that can car-ry two
G7 F F C///G7 F G7 C////
And both shall row, my love and I.

You Tell Me Your Dream (I'll Tell You Mine) (2)

C / D7 D7 C / A7 / D7 / A7 D7 D7 / / You had a dream, dear, I had one too.

G7 / Gm G7 C / G7 G7 F / Bb7 / C / / I know mine's best cause it was of you

C / D7 D7 C / A7 / D7 / A7 D7 D7 / / / Come, sweet heart, tell me, Now is the time

D7 / Bm D7 F / A7 / D7 / D7 G7 C / / / You tell me your dream, I'll tell you mine.

Sweet Rosie O'Grady (3)

G// D7 G D7 G//G// C//D7 C C G////
Sweet Ro-sie O'Gra- dy, My dear lit-tle rose.

C//C D7 C G//G//A7 // A7 G A7 D7/////
She's my stea-dy la - dy, Most ev - ery -one knows.

G//D7 G D7 G//G//C//Am CAm B7////
And when we are mar- ried, How hap-py we'll be

B7 CC C D7 C C G//E7/
For I love sweet Ro-sie O'Gra- dy,

E7 A7 A7 A7 D7 A7 D7 G/////
And Ro-sie O'Gra- dy loves me.



There is a ship and she sails the sea She's laden deep as deep can be But not so deep as the love I'm in And I know not if I sink or swim.

I leaned my back against an oak
Thinking he were a trusty tree
But first he bended and then he broke
Thus did my love prove false to me.

O love is handsome and love is kind Fine as a jewel when first it's new, But love grows old and waxes cold And fades away like the morning dew.

In The Gloaming (2)

↓
G C G / G / D7 Am Am / Em /
In The Gloa-ming, Oh my dar - ling,

Am Am G / G / D7 D7 G /// When the lights are dim and low,

G C G / G / D7 Am Am / Em / And the qui - et sha - dows fall - ing,

Am Am G / D7 / G D7 G /// Soft - ly come and soft - ly go.

G7 F F / G7 / G7 (F G7) F / C / When the winds are sob - b - ing faint - ly,

A7 G/G/CG D7/// With a gen-tle, un-known woe,

G C G / G / D7 Am Am / Em / Will you think of me and love me,

Am Am G / D7 / G D7 G /// As you did once long a - go?

In The Gloaming, oh my darling,
Think not bitterly of me.
Though I pass'd away in silence,
Left you lonely, set you free;
For my heart was crushed with longing,
What had been could never be;
It was best to leave you thus, dear,
Best for you, and best for me.

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The Battle Cry Of Freedom (2)

D7 G G Em D7 Em / Em D7 Em Em Em D7 C /// Yes, we'll ral-ly 'round the flag, boys, we'll ral-ly once a - gain,

G / G D7 G G G D7 G /// D7 / Shout-ing the bat-tle cry of free - dom;

G D7 G G Em D7 Em / Em D7 Em Em Em D7 C /// We will ral-ly from the hill -side, we'll gath-er from the plain,

G / G D7 G G G D7 /// G // Shout-ing the bat-tle cry of free - dom.

G G / G D7 G C / G G / G D7 G / / G D7 G C / G / G D7 / Chorus: The Un -ion for-ev-er, Hur-rah! boys, Hur-rah! Down with the trait-or, up with the stars;

D7 Em / Em / C C C D7 C / / G / G D7 G G G D7 / / / G / D7 G G G G While we ral-ly 'round the flag, boys, Ral-ly once a - gain, Shout-ing the bat-tle cry of free - dom.

> We are springing to the call of our brothers gone before, Shouting the battle cry of freedom; And we'll fill the vacant ranks with a million free-men more, Shouting the battle cry of freedom. Chorus:



Lorena (2)



Ç / / C F C C G7 F///F// The years creep slow-ly by, Lo -re - na, G7 / / F G7 G7 C G7 C / / / / / The snow is on the grass a - gain; C / / C FC C G7 F///F// The sun's low down the sky, Lo -re - na, G7 C G7 C///// G7 The frost gleams where the flow'rs have been. [Am Am] Am // Am Am Em Am Am Em ///// But the heart throbs on as warm-ly now Em Am // Dm Am Dm Am Em Am /// G7 //

As when the sum-mer days were nigh

[G7 G7] C / / C F C C G7 F / / / F / / O, the sun can ne-ver dip so low,

F G7 / / F G7 G7 C G7 C///// A-down af-fec-tions cloud-less sky.

G7 C//C F C C G7 F///F// The sun can ne-ver dip so low,

F G7 / / F G7 G7 C G7 C///// A-down af-fec-tions cloud-less sky.

A hundred months have passed, Lorena, Since last I held that hand in mine, And felt the pulse beat fast, Lorena, Though mine beat faster far from thine. A hundred months, 'twas flowery May, When up the hilly slope we climbed, To watch the dying of the day, And hear the distant church bells chime.



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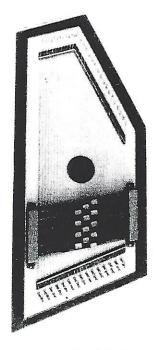
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Althea Elizabeth Sehl, age 2 1/2 days attended the Arizona Autoharp Club meeting! Momma, Theresa Reddy, believes in starting them young!