

Mountain Laurel Autoharp Gathering Hall of Fame

Proclamation Michael King

Whereas: Along with Becky Blackley, he co-founded The Autoharpoholic magazine as well as being a regular columnist for that publication in addition to serving on its Advisory Board. Later, he contributed musical arrangements to the Autoharp Clearinghouse magazine. And,

Whereas: He taught both private and group autoharp lessons as well as having been an instructor for our instrument via Keith Young's ongoing series of classes in Northern Virginia in addition to organized workshops and classes at the Augusta Heritage Center (WV), the Cranberry Dulcimer Gathering (NY), the Memphis Dulcimer Festival (TN), the Summer Solstice Festival (CA), The Walnut Valley Festival (KS) and the Washington Folk Festival (DC). He was also a successful competitor in the Autoharp Contest at the Galax (VA) Old Time Fiddlers Convention. He performed the tune Hoedown on a CD compilation of international music, and another of his performances was recorded on a CD of Galax Winners. And,

Whereas: He did recording studio work on the autoharp during his nineteen years in the San Francisco area, as well as autoharp repairs and setups at the music stores where he worked in both California and Virginia. Likewise, he composed the music and performed on autoharp for the six-week run of a play called Little Victories at the Round House Theater in Silver Spring (MD). In 1989, he gave two solo performances in the Grand Foyer of Washington's prestigious Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. And,

Whereas: This man's gift for musical arrangement, harmonies and chord progressions lives on within the autoharp community by way of the more than one hundred handwritten songs and tunes that he unselfishly shared with his fellow autoharpers. And,

Whereas: He was a charter, and active contributing, member of the Capital 'Harpers Autoharp Club, to which he not only bequeathed all of his musical instruments upon his passing but also left the group a monetary gift to support workshops and concerts by guest instructors and performers.

Therefore, let it be resolved that Michael Smith King be inducted with highest commendations as the 2009 posthumous member of The Autoharp Hall of Fame.

So it is proclaimed this Twenty-Seventh day of June in the year Two Thousand and Nine.