



Dulcimer Maker: The Craft of Homer Ledford

By R. Gerald Alvey

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" Dulcimer making has long been considered an art. The exquisite design is also functional, and the best instruments sound as beautiful as they look. Homer Ledford, a legend among dulcimer makers, is known for his innovative but traditional craftsmanship. A biography and a step-by-step guide to dulcimer making, this classic book illuminates and celebrates the work of a master craftsman, musician, and folk artist. This new edition presents a foreword by Ron Pen, director of the John Jacob Niles Center for American Music at the University of Kentucky, and an enlightening afterward featuring a conversation with Ledford. In an era when Americans are rediscovering their musical roots, Dulcimer Maker offers a unique look at a bluegrass legend.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Goes well beyond the numerous scholarly and technical articles written over the years about the dulcimer. Ledford's comments complement Alvey's writing and the fine photographs."*Choice*

"Even if you don't know a dulcimer from a dobro, this is a fine biography in its own rights, a slice of real life profiling an innovative master of his craft and practicing musician."*Pegram (TN) Advocate*

"There is a certain amount of how-to in the book (thank goodness someone cared enough to keep the written log) and even more who-does, but for musicians the core of this tribute and testament is the music-making instrument itself, the sound-in-the-ear as well as the visual object itself, which are both works of art."*Rockland (ME) Courier-Gazette*

"One of the best luthiery biographies to be published in recent memory and a must-read for fans of the mountain dulcimer."*Sing Out!*

About the Author

R. Gerald Alvey is a retired professor of English at the University of Kentucky who has published numerous articles on Appalachian culture.

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