

# Foreword

So you're interested in dulcimers.

But like us, you may not have had much success in finding information to help you learn to play the instrument.

Although there are a number of books about the playing and the building of dulcimers, none of them really clears the way for persons with no musical background who come in search of something that will help them make music.

This book is somewhat different from the other dulcimer books you may have seen, for we approach the dulcimer—and dulcimer music—in a new way. Over the past few years we have found that the dulcimer can be played in a contemporary guitar style, allowing the musician to stand up if he so desires. Traditionally you play the dulcimer sitting down, but we found this style placed limitations on what could be done rhythmically and melodically.

Our desire to play the dulcimer as a contemporary musical instrument caused us to devise particular techniques, and this book is nothing more than an analysis of these techniques, along with some encouragement for those of you who are just beginning to explore the world of making your own music.

For the past few years we have traveled around the United States and parts of Europe playing dulcimer music, building dulcimers, and helping others with their playing. Often the stimulus for writing has come