

what the instrument is all about and then learn songs, you'll have a better grasp of the music within yourself, and it won't be so hard to get it out later on.

Admittedly, much of the history is colored to give you a feeling of what was happening in music many hundreds of years ago, and although we have not digressed from fact, we have written with a free license.

We have written, collected, researched, and rapped on people over several years and tens of thousands of hitch-hiking miles in all parts of the United States, and we realize we're a lot closer to the dulcimer and its music than when we began this journey.

The times we spent writing were often times we wanted to be playing. During one such period came these few lines that I hope will open for you our perspective on this book.

My music lies sleeping.
When next it wakes, I'll be
A bird on Wing! And my
 Freedom
 Shall make everyone I
 Touch just a little more
 Free
 Themselves.

And when I land,
 When I touch down
 To clay feet
 And clay thoughts,
I pray some potter will come and remake me also.