

G. Finkenbeiner, Inc.

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(617) 899-3138



THE SOUND THAT'S THERE, BUT DOES NOT HAVE A BEGINNING

It's the famous Benjamin Franklin Glass Harmonica that is now in production again. Played by applying wet fingers to the rim of the rotating glass-cups, the instrument produces a hard-to-describe eerie sound that seems to come out of nowhere. The melodies and chords are at the same time sweet and powerful enough to fill a large auditorium without amplification.

The instrument's popularity peaked when such musical giants as Mozart and Beethoven composed music especially for the Glass Harmonica. Played solo or with other instruments, by amateurs or professional musicians, it will captivate audiences just as it did 200 years ago.

The Glass Harmonica is available at prices comparable with contemporary harpsicords.

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OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

APR 2 1 09 PM '85

CAMBRIDGE, MASS. March 30, 1985

Dear Cambridge City Councillors,

I am writing this letter to ardently support the proposed draft for a revised Regulation of Street Performances in the City of Cambridge, written by one Stephen H. Baird. I feel we urgently need some very clear-cut guidelines that are unambiguous and lean toward the support of the street musicians who provide such color, uniqueness, and entertainment for our city.

I can also speak personally about this matter. Although I have a fulltime job as a system's analyst, I greatly enjoy playing my glass harmonica (picture enclosed) for street audiences, especially those in Harvard Square. Although I perform in many formal settings around the Boston area, including churches, universities, museums and historical societies, the interaction I get with a very close personalized audience is something special for me. The money I get is not as important to me as the pleasure I share with the people who see and hear my unique instrument.

I require electricity to make the spindle of the instrument rotate, and the wonderful management at Warburton's Bakery have kindly and generously agreed to allow me to use their outside electricity. Not only have they given me full permission to play in front of their store, but they actually want me to be there whenever possible because they think I increase their sales. Now, I thought the law forbidding musicians to play in front of shops was originally enacted because the store owners complained about the congestion. Well, these people aren't complaining! Most police officers who see me play will not tell me to move; they more likely than not will stand and listen and enjoy my music. Only one particular officer comes and tells me if I do not move I will be arrested and have my musicians permit permanently revoked. What is the law? Are these threats legitimate? Why is the law so arbitrary and subject to personal whim? This policeman says he does not care what I do after 4PM. The law does not change at that hour, but the officer goes off his beat. Apparently it's OK if I break the law as long as he is not present to see me do it. Is this professional behavior?

I would like to see Mr. Baird's proposal approved so I will once and for all know if I am indeed breaking the law or not. I have gone to the Cambridge police station many times for clarification of the law and even the higher-ranking officers cannot give me clear answers or protect me from the possibility of being harassed by this one policeman while I play.

I thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely yours,

Vera E. Meyer

Vera E. Meyer

30 Sciarappa St.

Cambridge, Ma. 02141

cc: Mayor Leonard Russell
Captain Patrick Corcoran, CPD
Cambridge Chronicle
Steven H. Baird

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Comm. from Vera E. Meyer, 30 Sciarappa St.,
in support of the proposed draft for revised
street performance regulations, as submitted
by Stephen H. Baird.

In City Council,

April 8, 1985

4/9/85

Referred to the

PETITION