

Music for Internet Lodge No. 9659



During the gestation period when the Lodge was being formed not much time and effort was needed to be spent on discussing music. The plans centred on providing an electronic forum for Brethren to meet and compliance with protocol that would ensure the physical meetings were in accordance with the established landmarks and customs of Freemasonry.

By the time the Lodge was consecrated we discovered we had some experienced musicians in our midst and Don Hyde was the first organist. Ab. Goedhals is a musicologist by profession and a very experienced Freemason and he selected the opening and closing odes and posted them on our website, providing the musical manuscript and the words for both. In making his choice of music he acknowledged the support of the province of East Lancashire by choosing tunes that are well known to the Brethren of that province because they probably would account for the majority of those who could easily come to the Consecration and subsequent Installation meetings.

An unusual characteristic of the Lodge is that it is in Manchester for the Installation, but at a different location for every other meeting. It is a very pleasant feature of the Lodge that we have the opportunity to use a different Masonic Temple on almost every occasion but this poses some additional burdens on the Director of Ceremonies. Quite apart from having to rehearse a disparate group of officers who come together only an hour or so before the ceremony, he has to adjust the perambulations to suit quite different conditions. Over the years we have had a number of excellent Brethren who have held the office of Director of Ceremonies and the challenge of getting the right people in the right place at the right time, with dignity, is onerous.

These circumstances lend themselves to a free style of processional music. I have had the privilege of playing the organ in Bath, Canterbury, Derby, Edinburgh, Hull, Dover, Nottingham, Manchester, Kendal, Worcester and at Great Queen Street in London. Few Masonic organists could have had this pleasure and indeed the fun at finding out at short notice which bits of the instrument are best avoided and how to produce the most suitable sounds. Of course it also gives the opportunity to provide background music that comes to a natural conclusion when the DC is satisfied that everyone is in their proper place.

We do not have a printed musical order of service because we do not initiate candidates or work the three established degrees in Freemasonry.

In some ways music is the cement that binds together the diverse officers who meet once in every four or five months, but whom all wish to deliver a ceremony that is second to none in the Craft and which demonstrates the high regard that Freemasons from cyberspace polled our rituals.

The Lodge is fortunate in having a number of very fine musicians and singers in its midst. W. Bro Martin Roche has led the singing more frequently than others at our festive boards and ladies festivals.

As I resign the post of organist and hand over to W. Bro. Chris Malpas I know our musical entertainment socially and the accompaniment of ceremonies in the Temple will be in good hands.

Naunton Liles PPJGW

29th August 2005