

THE MASONIC VOCAL MANUAL

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The Masonic Vocal Manual by Robert Macoy

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ROBERT MACOY

**THE MASONIC
VOCAL MANUAL**

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P R E F A C E .

THE object of the present volume is to furnish LODGES, CHAPTERS, and APPROPRIATE CEREMONIALS, with a complete COLLECTION OF ODES for all practical purposes. Great care has been used in the selection: all light and trifling pieces were rejected, and it is believed that nothing has been admitted but such as will tend to advance the dignity of the Order, and elevate the moral character of its members.

The tones of music breathing the "concord of sweet sounds," speak a language to the soul richer in meaning than words can express, and add an inspiring influence, in unison with the sublime ceremonies of the Order, to enliven the mind; to cheer the drooping spirit, and assist in promoting the reciprocal sentiments of Brotherly Love and Charity.

The tunes selected and accompanying each piece, are old and familiar; but may be changed, by those having a knowledge of music, to other and probably more appropriate airs.

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ODES FOR THE LODGE.

L

ODE TO MASONRY.

HAIL, MASONRY! we boast thy cheerful grace,
And own our union to an ancient race.
This boast is noble, Virtue makes it so,
And stamps the man who wears it, high or low, }
As he his actions to the world doth show.
Our order's age to TIME himself's unknown,
And still shall flourish when his sythe's laid down.
When th' æra came for NATURE to arise,
Pleas'd with the work she hasted thro' the skies;
BEAUTY, and STRENGTH, and WISDOM then arose,
Attendant to fulfill her various laws;
Quick th' immortals hasten'd to descry
Her great designs, and saw with wond'ring eye
Discord and darkness fly before her face,

And sweetest beauty fill the boundless space.
They saw the planets dance their wond'rous round,
By Attraction's secret force in order bound,
They saw the earth in glory rise to view;
Surpris'd they stood, each dif'rent scene was new.
The crowning wonder next arose, and charm'd
Their minds with greater force, for man was form'd;
In whom the various graces all were join'd,
And BEAUTY, STRENGTH and WISDOM were combin'd.
Their admiration then gave birth to praise,
They sung the ARCHITECT in' glorious lays.
Their lyres they tun'd with sweetest harmony,
And hail'd the matchless name of MASONRY.
Such is the genial pow'r whose laws we own,
Whose wisdom animates each duteous son.

When sad corruption tainted human kind,
And prejudice shed darkness o'er the mind,
Men fled her presence, dazzled at her light,
And chose to wander in the wilds of night;
Griev'd at the scene, reluctant she retir'd,
And in a sev'n-fold veil her face attir'd.
No more in public are her truths reveal'd,
From all, but a chosen few, she keeps conceal'd.
No mixed gaze, no clam'rous noise she loves,
Wisdom in soberness her mind approves;
But still (so 't is decreed) she must retain
Some among men her science to maintain,

For them the noblest fabrics now she rears,
To crown their virtues, and to ease their cares.
Within those walls no trivial merit's known,
No wild ambition. ENVY'S jealous frown,
Jaundic'd SUSPICION, SATIRE'S vengeful sneer,
Dare not intrude; immortal TRUTH is there.
FRIENDSHIP and LOVE, with all their charming train,
In MASONRY'S bright temples ever reign;
No characters are on her altars slain.
What though the weak may point with foolish sneer
At those who're Masons but by what they wear,
And sagely ask, if Masonry's so good,
Why are the lives of these so very rude?
Yet candid minds (and such ev'rywhere abound)
Will own the good, tho' bad ones may be found.
Search orders thro', e'en sacred are not free
From those who are not what they ought to be.
Still so exact are Masonry's bright rules,
They none offend, but vicious men or fools.
Long may the lodge remain the honor'd seat
Of each Masonic Virtue, good and great!
May every member as a Mason shine,
And round his heart its ev'ry grace entwine!
While here below, may Heav'n upon him show'r
Its choicest gifts, and in a distant hour,
Gently from the lodge below his soul remove
To the GRAND LODGE OF MASONRY above!

2.

THE LODGE.

'Tis WISDOM, STRENGTH and BEAUTY,
 United, hand in hand,
 Support our glorious fabric,
 Which spreads o'er every land.

The steps within its ladder,
 By which aloft we climb,
 Are HOPE and kindly CHARITY,
 And spirit FAITH sublime.

The starry heaven, its canopy
 Curtained by angel wings;
 Whose kind protecting radiancy,
 A halo 'round us flings.

3.

Music—

'Tis Masonry unites mankind,
 To gen'rous actions forms the soul;
 In friendly converse all conjoin'd
 One spirit animates the whole.

Where'er aspiring domes arise,
 Wherever sacred altars stand;
 Those altars blaze unto the skies,
 Those domes proclaim the Mason's hand.

4.

ENTERED APPRENTICE.

OPENING.

Music—*Dundee, C. M.*

Within our temple, met again,
 With hearts and purpose strong,
 We'll raise our notes of grateful praise,
 With union in our song.

Around our altar's sacred shrine,
 May Love's pure incense rise,
 Bearing upoh its mystic flame
 Our music to the skies.

5.

Music—*Auld Lang Syne.*

Come, brothers of the mystic tie—
 Our social work begun—
 We'll raise an opening song on high
 To HIM, the HOLY ONE!
 With hearts united, firm and free,
 We round our altar stand;
 Who best can work, and best agree
 Are dearest in our band.

Come, kindle, at our holy fire,
 Fraternal thoughts and kind;
 Each worthy act and pure desire
 Shall kindred wishes bind.
 With hearts united, firm and free, &c.