

Talking about Hymn, Pleyl me a song.

How are trumpets like pirates? They both murder in the high C's. It was either that joke or me singing....you should be thanking me.

Our current step deals with the subject of music. When it comes to music, I feel there are two types of people, those that create wonderful sounds with voice, instrument or lyrics, and then people like me who the Great Architect provided with constantly out of tune instruments who can only play the radio or an MP3 player. We are blessed to have many wonderful musicians in Masonry from Glenn Miller and John Phillip Sousa to our local talent Richard Turochy, and our Tuckahoe Trumpeters Butch Ammon and Jim Gregory.

While reflecting on this topic, I focused my attention on music that all of us sitting have heard at an important time in our lives, being the funeral dirge or Pleyl's Hymn . This music was composed by Bro Ignaz Joseph Pleyl in 1791 and lyrics were added by Bro David Vinton in 1816. The hymn has 6 stanzas to it, but many of us have only heard 3. The first, 4th and 6th stanzas are the three we hear during the third degree in our ritual. While I promised not to sing, I want to recite the 3 that you may not be familiar with.

2. Mortals now indulge a tear;
For mortality is here!
See how wide her trophies wave
O'er the slumbers of the grave.

3. Calm, the good man meets his fate;
Guards celestial 'round him wait.
See! he bursts these mortal chains,
And o'er Death the victory gains.

5. There enlarged, thy soul shall see,
What was veiled in mystery;
Heavenly glories of the place
Show his maker face to face.

Keep these lyrics in mind as I play two variations of this music, one familiar and one from a historical timeframe when the lyrics may have had more impact on those listening or singing them.

My next lecture will reach for the stars. Except the Dog Star, that would make things too Sirius.



'The Winding Staircase - A 15 step path to improving yourself in Masonry'

By: Michael J. Caro, LEO, Tuckahoe Lodge No. 347

4-19