



The Organist

Each officer in a chapter is important. All officers are charged with specific duties at the time of installation. Each officer should strive to perform these duties in a manner becoming the solemnity of our Order. To make our Ritualistic work as impressive as possible, all officers should memorize their work.

One of the most responsible duties in the Chapter is that of the Organist, for she/he has the responsibility for creating the impression of harmony. Very often, she/he is one of the officers whom we tend to forget, and who seldom receives the praise that is due her/him. We

have only to be present at a meeting where there is no organist to fully appreciate all the talent that she/he is sharing every evening.

Often she/he works for hours at home, searching for just the right piece of music to play for each of the introductions, or for a soloist, or to use as fill-in music whenever it will be required during the meeting. She/He is at the instrument when the meeting begins and when it ends, and has been faithfully performing her duties all that time.

Besides playing the required music at the proper time, the organist participates in the ritualistic work in other ways. For instance, during the meeting, she remember to stand at least seven different times.

- Ritualistic opening on duty
- When the Chaplain is praying at the Altar
- When she/he casts her

ballot

- When she/he gives Grand Honors
- During the Obligation
- During the Flag Salute
- During the saying of Grace.

The Organist has the opportunity to set the tone of a meeting by her/his choice of music and how she/he uses it. During the balloting, she/he may provide enjoyment for the members who are waiting for their turn to ballot. At that time and also during any movements about the room, quiet music helps to cover the noise of the footsteps. I am certain that, for a candidate, the organist does make the impressions more lasting.

During all Altar services, quiet times and movements about the Chapter Room, the Organist should provide appropriate music for effectiveness.

Appropriate music should be played during the march to the Altar, during the opening and closing of the Bible, but not during prayer.

It is the Organist's field of opportunity to enhance the Ritualistic work of any evening and to raise the Chapter's image by her/his expertise. By careful attention to the Ritual, she/he can save so much time in a Chapter meeting, by playing promptly to move the Ritualistic work or the program along smoothly. Any performance of the work can be more accurate and efficient by the performance of the Organist.

Corley Anne Byras
Worthy Grand Matron