

Canadian Charge

(Standing in Southeast Corner of the Lodge)

In Masons Lodge with a cable tow about me,
And with hoodwinked eyes,
I swore to hold all mysteries
That masons keep and Masons prize,
To keep all secrets whispered low,
'Bout the things Brothers say, and do, and know;
In mystic manner taught me.

Chorus:

On yonder Book, that oath I took,
And will I break it?
NEVER!
But I'll standby this, (EA Step)
And this, (EA D-G)
And this (EA Sign)
Forever and forever.

(Standing in Northeast Corner of the Lodge)

I swore to answer and obey,
All summonses duly sent me,
By Masonic Brother's written hand or legal Lodge way.
I swore I would not stray, from ancient law or rules that bound,
Free Masons of the days renowned;
But would observe them truly.

Chorus:

On yonder Book, that oath I took,
And will I break it?
NEVER!
But I'll standby this, (FC Step)
And this, (FC D-G)
And this (FC Sign)
Forever and forever.

(Standing in Southeast Corner of the Lodge)

I swore to lead with tender care all those in sorrow hidden,
The Brother, on the darkened square,
The widow, with disheveled hair,
The orphan doomed, alas to stray upon the rough and rugged way,
While tears gush forth unbidden.

Chorus:

On yonder Book, that oath I took,
And will I break it?
NEVER!
But I'll standby this, (MM Step)
And this, (MM D-G)
And this (MM Sign)
Forever and forever.

(Standing in Northeast Corner of the Lodge)

I swore to deal in honesty
With all true hearts around me,
That honor bright may ever be
Unbroken bonds 'twix him and me.
Not wrong, nor gile. Nor cruel fraud
Should ever break the sacred chord
By which my vows have bound me.

Chorus:

On yonder Book, that oath I took,
And will I break it?

NEVER!

But I'll standby this, (EA D-G)

And this, (FC D-G)

And this (MM D-G)

Forever and forever.

(Standing in Southeast Corner of the Lodge)

I swore to guard all secrets close
Of true Masonic Brothers,
To keep them sacred as my own,
And never more let them be known;
Keep body upright, faithful heart,
Mind mature in moral art,
Though tempted to betrayal.

Chorus:

On yonder Book, that oath I took,
And will I break it?

NEVER!

But I'll standby this, (EA Sign)

And this, (FC Sign)

And this (MM Sign)

Forever and forever.

(Standing in Northeast Corner of the Lodge)

I swore the chastity to keep
Of women true and tender,
Keep Brother Mason's wife or child,
His mother or sister undefiled:
To them, I swore a brother's love
By him who rules the Lodge above;
To be their true defender.

Chorus:

On yonder Book, that oath I took,
And will I break it?

NEVER!

But I'll standby this, (G-H Sign)

And this, (G-H Sign)

And this (G-H Sign)

Forever and forever.

(Standing in front of the candidate at the Alter)
My Brother, these vows are your vows,
And may they be your cares,
And may such aid be given answers
To your most earnest prayers,
That you may do and dare
All God's gracious law allows,
Seeking life's treasures
While fulfilling your vows.

On this Holy Book (touch or pointing to the Bible)
These oaths YOU took.
And will you break them?
(Indicate to the candidate He is to answer)
NEVER!

So stand on this, and this and this (touch each of the 3 GL's)
Forever, and (indicate to, and let the candidate say) Forever.

(Take one or two steps back to indicate you are finished, and say)
So mote it be!
(Make a deep bow to the candidate)

The W.M. should go directly to refreshment. Then the S.D. without the W.M.'s verbal comment, conduct the candidate immediately to the Alter after the examination of the MM degree (while he is still near the Alter), and have him kneel on both knees, as in prayer, facing the East. The 3 GL's must be visible if his hands are on the Alter/Bible.
When the candidate is in position and the S.D. has seated, the lights are turned off.
(Note: The presenter should already be sitting in the first row up by the Secretary's desk ready to stand because the lights will be off before he starts. Try not to stand until the lights are off.)

Lights: (general directions)

When the S.D. sits, kill all the lights in the Lodge. Including GL's and Alter light.
The presenter takes his position near the Secretary's desk with cable tow and hoodwink in hand and begins the charge. On his first words, "In Mason's lodge...." Switch on the full house lights, GL's and the Alter light.

After the first Chorus when the presenter says, "forever and forever", diminish the lights by 1/6. Reduce the lights by 1/6 for the next 5 chorus'. After the sixth chorus is terminated, from the north side of the Lodge, all the house lights will have been cut off except the three GL's and Alter light.

The last stanza is given with the presenter standing just east of the Alter, in the circle of the Alter light. After the chorus, and after the presenter has stepped back and bowed to the candidate, and, as the presenter is in the process of straightening up, the house lights should be turned up as fast as possible, the letter "G" be turned on.

Lights: (Dayton Lodge center room directions)

When the S.D. sits – kill all the lights in the Lodge, Including GL's and Alter light.

- On his first words, "In Masons' lodge...." Switch on the full house lights, GL's and the Alter light.
- At the conclusion of Chorus 1 dim the blue light switch by half.

- At the conclusion of Chorus 2 switch off the blue lights (at this point bring the blue dimmer to full)
- At the conclusion of Chorus 3 dim the red light switch by half.
- At the conclusion of Chorus 4 switch off the red lights (at this point bring the red dimmer to full)
- At the conclusion of Chorus 5 dim the Yellow & White light switches by half.
- At the conclusion of Chorus 6 switch off the Yellow & White lights (at this point bring the Yellow & White dimmers to full)

At this point only the Alter light and the GL's will be on.

The last stanza is given with the presenter standing just east of the Alter, in the circle of the Alter light. After the last chorus, and after the presenter has stepped back and bowed to the candidate, and, as the presenter is in the process of straightening up, the house lights should be switched on, along with the letter "G".

(If you did the dimmers correctly the lights can be switched on all at once with the upper switches.)

Presenter:

Once the lights go out find your way to a point just in front of the Secretary's desk in the Southeast corner and face the candidate.

Begin.

At the end of the first chorus take one step forward toward the candidate, smartly turn right and walk to the northeast corner of the Lodge, smartly turn left and look directly at the candidate. Begin the second stanza.

At the end of the Second chorus take one step forward toward the candidate, smartly turn Left and walk south stopping a step or two short of the distance traveled before. Smartly turn right and look directly at the candidate. Begin the third stanza.

(The goal here is to form a "V" pattern as you advance toward the candidate. As you step forward you also transverse a little shorter with each trip across the east.)

At the end of the third chorus take one step forward toward the candidate, smartly turn right and walk to the north stopping a step or two short of the distance traveled before, smartly turn left and look directly at the candidate. Begin the fourth stanza.

At the end of the fourth chorus take one step forward toward the candidate, smartly turn Left and walk south stopping a step or two short of the distance traveled before. Smartly turn right and look directly at the candidate. Begin the fifth stanza.

At the end of the fifth chorus take one step forward toward the candidate, smartly turn right and walk to the north stopping a step or two short of the distance traveled before, smartly turn left and look directly at the candidate. Begin the sixth stanza.

At the end of the sixth chorus take one step forward toward the candidate, smartly turn Left and walk south stopping in the center of the Lodge between the East and the Alter. Smartly turn right and advance toward the candidate and stop just within the circle of light from the Alter spot above.

Give the last stanza. Take one or two steps back to indicate you are finished, and say,
So mote it be!

Make a deep bow to the candidate. Once the lights come on smartly return to your seat.