



## Enhance the Music in the Lodge Room

Music is an important feature in adding lustre to our ceremonies. Here are several pointers to ensure its success.

It is important to rehearse the songs in the song sheet particularly when the Lodge has visiting organists or a new operator using a CD.

Brethren may need practice when to start in to a song i.e. is there a lead in or does the singing start straight away. Perhaps nominate one or two brethren to take the lead so other brethren can follow.

Use the time to prepare when the Candidate has left the room by reminding the Brethren of the odes to be used in that degree. Warn them to be especially careful about the odes if they are "not going to be in a position to read the ode sheet during the ceremony". In this situation it can be effective to have those particular odes sung as a solo, with the brethren being warned of this in advance.

The song sheet should reflect the words the Lodge actually sings – and visitors should use those words.

When singing a song then direct the words at the candidate, particularly during a tune such as that after the investiture of the apron – this should be seen as all the brethren present singing a 'charge' at the candidate. It therefore looks poor with brethren looking disinterested and looking away or down at the song sheet. The words are in their own right a message to the candidate from all present and they should be treated as such.

