

O. E. S. GRAND  
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A-43

YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE

#1  
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Honoring W. Grand Matron

or Worthy Matron

gift from June Roberts Bismarck  
This is a beautiful though simple ceremony honoring the Worthy Grand Matron. It requires a drill team of eight Sisters. If Chapter is small, this may include the Starpoints, who will retire immediately preceding ceremony. If Chapter is large enough, have these eight able to carry the song. If not, choir may take care of this. The timing is slow, although the music "You Are My Sunshine" is played medium fast. Each foot is raised, taps the floor once, and is put down, when other foot is raised, taps floor once, and is put down. This is the step for the entire ceremony.

Raps are heard outside the door.

Warder: Worthy Matron, there is an alarm at the door.

W. M. : Sister Warder, you will ascertain the cause of the alarm.

Warder opens door, and reports:

Worthy Matron, the alarm was caused by Sisters who wish to pay homage to our honored Guest, our Worthy Grand Matron.

Worthy Matron: Open wide our doors. None could be more welcome.

Four Sisters in formals enter through the Chapter room door, and four through Preparation room door. They march East with the tapping step described above, and with a distinct sway of the hips in time to the music. This is simple and effective. When they are in front of the Conductress and Associate Conductress, respectively, they turn Northeast and Southeast respectively, and criss-cross just East of Altar. At corners they turn West, and march until they are in front of Adah and Electa, respectively, when they turn toward each other. When they meet they pass each other as in the grand chain (right and left) of a quadrille, except they do not clasp hands as they pass by. Then they turn East, continue to corners, and march to face each other halting in front of Worthy Grand Matron. In a line and in unison, they all raise their right hand (as Statue of Liberty) with palm out, and in unison say:

We salute... YOUR...

1st Sister... Sweetness; 2nd Sister... Understanding; 3rd Sister... Neighborliness; 4th Sister... Sympathy; 5th Sister... Humility; 6th Sister... Inspiration; 7th Sister... Nobility; 8th Sister... Endeavors.

Together, they sing one stanza of "You Are My Sunshine," words following:

These words make sunshine... Pure golden sunshine,  
They give the pattern for all your year;  
And we salute you - So absolute, true,  
And we're glad to have you near.

Two leaders turn (reverse) North and South respectively, both lines march West until they are in front of Electa's and Adah's stations. Then they again march toward each other, grand chaining (right and left) to other side. Again they march West. Back of Esther's chair, in the West, they angle to the corners, making the criss-cross immediately behind her chair. At corners they turn to face each other. When they meet they turn East, passing through labyrinth, separating when they reach the East, and going North and South, respectively, until they form a straight line again. In this formation, they again raise their right arm, palm outward, and in unison, repeat...

We offer... YOU...

1st Sister... Service; 2nd Sister... Usefulness; 3rd Sister... Neighborliness; 4th Sister... Strength; 5th Sister... Homage; 6th Sister... Industry; 7th Sister... Nobility; 8th Sister... Endeavor.

Remaining standing in this position, they sing (or choir) to tune "You Are My Sunshine", the words:

Here in our meeting, - Our loving greeting  
Salutes the sunshine of your smile;  
May heaven bless you, With happiness, true,  
As your ways our hearts beguile.

You are our sunshine, Our golden sunshine,  
You make us happy by being here;  
In charm and beauty,- In every duty  
You will ever grow more dear.

If a presentation is to be made, now is an appropriate time. Have two Sisters in formals enter, approach East through labyrinth, one carrying a basket of flowers, the other carrying the gift. The two lines of four Sisters separate in the middle to make room for these two, who stand slightly in front of other line.

First Sister.... with flowers:

Flowers may fade, but the memory of your presence in this Chapter room will remain with us forever, with a fragrance as of flowers.

What matter if it's a daisy,  
A pansy, a lily or rose, -  
Each flower contains the same meaning...  
The love that each heart knows.  
And long we will treasure this memory,  
And think of these pleasant hours;  
With our wishes and prayers for your future...  
The message of these flowers.

Second Sister.... with gift:

Sister -----, Worthy Grand Matron of -----, Order of Eastern Star, we can all find some few words to express our friendship to such dear ones as you. We can all find some words to tell of our appreciation of all that you have come to mean to us. But there comes a time when words fail to tell all that is in our hearts, even if we were to continue repeating ourselves. Then we think of some little gift that will say for us those extra words and thoughts that cannot be expressed, except from heart to heart. The gift matters little, but we would have it whisper its great messages of fraternal love and fellowship from every Member of this Chapter to you.

Within this gift are fond thoughts and true,  
Our wish sincere;  
You are our sunshine, and it is you...  
Grand Matron, dear.