“Will the Circle be Unbroken” is a hymn originally written by Ada Habershon and Charles Gabriel in 1907. The song was re-worked by A.P. Carter and recorded by the early country music recording artists The Carter Family in 1935. Initially written for funerals, the song has been covered by numerous recording artists and is closely associated with the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum®. Each year, the song is sung at the conclusion of the Medallion Ceremony that officially inducts new members. The chorus to “Will the Circle be Unbroken” is enshrined in the Museum's Hall of Fame Rotunda, where the words adorn the top of the room and serve as a reminder of the continuous nature of country music to all visitors to the Hall of Fame.

I was standing by my window,  
On one cold and cloudy day  
When I saw that hearse come rolling,  
For to carry my mother away.  

Will the circle be unbroken,  
Bye and bye, Lord bye and bye?  
There's a better home awaiting,  
In the sky Lord in the sky?

I said to that undertaker,  
Undertaker please drive slow.  
For this lady you are carrying,  
Lord I hate to see here go.  

Will the circle be unbroken  
Bye and bye, Lord bye and bye?  
There's a better home awaiting,  
In the sky Lord in the sky?

Oh I followed close behind her.  
Tried to hold up and be brave.  
But I could not hide my sorrow,  
When they laid her in the grave.

I went back home. My home was lonesome.  
Missed my mother she was gone.  
All of my brothers, sisters crying,  
What a home so sad and lone.

We sang the songs of childhood.  
Hymns of faith that made us strong.  
Ones that Mother Maybelle taught us.  
Hear the angels sing along.
I was standing by my window, On one cold and cloudy day,
When I saw that hearse come rolling, For to carry my mother away.
Will the circle be unbroken, Bye and bye, Lord bye and bye?
There's a

Slowly & Freely

"WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN"

SATB

Traditional Hymn (1907)
Lyrics by A.P. Carter
Music by Charles H. Gabriel
Arr. by Shenelle Salcido

(Soloist)
With Movement

Sky Lord in the sky Lord. I said to that undertaker, Please drive
tak - er  
Oo. Please drive

tak - er,  
Un - der - tak - er please drive

tak - er,  
Un - der - tak - er please drive

slow - ly un - der - tak - er. Won't you please drive ve - ry slow - ly? Un - der -

slow.  
Oo. You are

slow.  
For this la - dy you are

slow.  
For this la - dy you are

tak - er please drive slow. For this la - dy you are
carrying, Lord I hate to see her

carrying,- Lord I hate to see her

carrying,- Lord I hate to see her

carrying,- Lord I hate to see her

Will the circle be unbroken, Bye and go.
Will the circle be unbroken, Bye and go.
Will the circle be unbroken, Bye and go.
Will the circle be unbroken, Bye and go.
bye, Lord bye and bye? There's a better home aw-
bye, Lord bye and bye? There's a better home aw-
bye, Lord bye and bye? There's a better home aw-
bye, Lord bye and bye? There's a better home aw-
waiting, In the sky Lord in the sky? Oh I
waiting, In the sky Lord in the sky? Oh I
waiting, In the sky Lord in the sky? Oh I
waiting, In the sky Lord in the sky? Oh I
followed close behind her. Tried to hold up and be brave. But I could not hide my sorrow, When they

Meno mosso
I went
laid her in the grave.

When they laid her, When they laid her in the grave.
laid her, When they laid her, When they laid her in the grave.
laid her When they laid her, When they laid her in the grave.

back home. My home was lone - some. Missed my moth - er she was gone._ All of my

brothers, sisters crying. What a home so sad and lone.

We sang the songs of

Unison

We sang the songs of

We sang the songs of

We sang the songs of
childhood. Hymns of faith that made us strong. Ones that
childhood. Hymns of faith that made us strong. Ones that
childhood. Hymns of faith that made us strong. Ones that
childhood. Hymns of faith that made us strong. Ones that
Mo ther- May bel le taught us. Hear the an gels sing a -
Mo ther- May bel le taught us. Hear the an gels sing a -
Mo ther- May bel le taught us. Hear the an gels sing a -
Mo ther- May bel le taught us. Hear the an gels sing a -
A little faster

Will the circle be un-
long.

A little faster

Will the circle be un-
long.

Will the circle be un-
long.

Will the circle be un-
long.

broken,- Bye and bye,
Lord bye and bye?
There's a

bro-ken,- Bye and bye,
Lord bye and bye?
There's a

bro-ken,- Bye and bye,
Lord bye and bye?
There's a

bro-ken,- Bye and bye,
Lord bye and bye?
There's a
Poco accelerando

63 64 65

Poco accelerando

In the sky

Unison
In the sky.

Solo (Tenor or Bass)  

molto rit.

Lord. In the sky.

A: Lord

T: Lord

B: Lord

molto rit.
I was standing by my window, On one cold and cloudy day. When I
saw that hearse come rolling, For to carry my mother away. Will the

circle be unbroken, Bye and bye, Lord bye and bye? There's a
better home awaiting, In the sky Lord in the

WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN

Traditional Hymn (1907)
Lyrics by A.P. Carter
Music by Charles H. Gabriel
Arr. by Shenelle Salcido

Two-part
With Movement

Sky Lord in the sky Lord. I said to that undertaker, Please drive Sky.

I said to that undertaker.- Won't you please drive very slowly? Under-

taker, Under-taker please drive slow. For this lady yes this lady you are slow. For this lady you are

carrying, Lord I hate to see her. carrying, Lord I hate to see her.

Will the circle be un-broken, Bye and go. Will the circle be un-broken, Bye and
bye, Lord bye and bye? There's a better home a-

bye, Lord bye and bye? There's a better home a-

wai ting, In the sky Lord in the sky? Oh I

wai ting, In the sky Lord in the sky? Oh I

f ol lowed close be hind her. Tried to hold up and be

f ol lowed close be hind her. Tried to hold up and be

brave. But I could not hide my sor row, When they

brave. But I could not hide my sor row, When they

I went

laid her in the grave. When they laid her in the grave.

laid her, When they laid her, When they laid her in the grave.
back home. My home was lone-some. Missed my moth-er she was gone._ All of my

brothers,- sis-ters cry-ing. What a home so sad and_

Part I:  

(Soloist)

We sang the songs of child-hood. Hymns of

Part II:

Unison

_ We sang the songs of child-hood. Hymns of

faith that made us strong._ Ones that Mo-ther May-belle taught us. Hear the

faith that made us strong._ Ones that Mo-ther May-belle taught us. Hear the
There are loved ones in the glory, Whose dear forms you often miss. When you close your earthly story, Will you join them in their bliss? Will the circle be unbroken, Bye and bye, Lord bye and bye? Is a

(Soloist)
With Movement

better home awaiting, In the sky Lord in the sky.

Oo.

Oo.

Oo.

Oo.

Oo.

With Movement

Sky.

You remember songs of Sky.


Sky. Lord in the sky Lord. You remember. You remember. Songs of
heaven, you sang with childish voice. You remember. Which you sang, oh yes you sang with childish voice.

Love, hymns they voice. Do you love the hymns they voice. With childish voice. Do you love, oh do you love the hymns they

\[ \begin{align*}
h\text{\textbf{\textdollar}} & \quad \text{\textbf{\textdollar}} \\
h\text{\textbf{\textdollar}} & \quad \text{\textbf{\textdollar}} \\
h\text{\textbf{\textdollar}} & \quad \text{\textbf{\textdollar}} \\
h\text{\textbf{\textdollar}} & \quad \text{\textbf{\textdollar}} \\
\end{align*} \]
taught you? Or are songs of earth your choice?

Will the circle be unbroken, Bye and
bye, Lord bye and bye? Is a better home a-
wa -
iting, In the sky Lord in the sky? You can
wa -
iting, In the sky Lord in the sky? You can
wa -
iting, In the sky Lord in the sky? You can
And you think of tearful partings, When they go.

Meno mosso

And you think of tearful partings, When they go.

Meno mosso
One by one they went away.

Slowly

one their seats were emptied. One by one they went away. Now the
family is parted. Will it be complete one day?

A little faster
broken, Bye and bye, Lord bye and bye? Is a

Poco accelerando

better home awaiting,

better home awaiting,

better home awaiting, In the sky Lord.

better home awaiting, In the sky Lord.

Poco accelerando
In the sky Lord. In the sky. In the sky, the sky. In the sky.

Solo (Tenor or Bass)

S:

In the sky Lord.

A:

In the sky Lord.

T:

In the sky Lord.

B:

In the sky Lord.

molto rit.

Unison
There are loved ones in the glory, Whose dear forms often miss. When you close your earthly story, Will you join them in their bliss? Will the circle be unbroken, Bye and bye, Lord bye and bye? Is a better home awaiting, In the sky Lord in the

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Sky


mf

with child - ish voice. With child - ish voice. Do you love, Oh do you love the hymns they

taught you? Or are songs of earth your

choice? Will the cir - cles be un - bro - ken, Bye and
bye, Lord bye and bye? Is a better home a-
bye, Lord bye and bye? Is a better home a-

wai ting,- In the sky Lord in the sky? You can
wai ting,- In the sky Lord in the sky? You can

melo dy

picture happy gather’ings, Round the fireside long a-
picture happy gather’ings, Round the fireside long a-

Meno mosso

And you think of tearful partings, When they
And you think of tearful partings, When they

Solo Soprano

left you here below. When they left you here below.
left you, When they left you, When they left you here below.
one their seats were emptied. One by one they went away. Now the

family is parted. Will it

Part I:

Part II:

be complete one day?

Will the circle be un-

bro-ken, Bye and bye, Lord bye and bye?

Is a
Poco accelerando

In the sky Lord...

better home awaiting,

Sky Lord.

Sky Lord. In the sky, The sky.

Unison

Sky Lord. In the sky Lord.

sky Lord sky.

In the sky.

Part I:

sky Lord.

Part II:

sky Lord

molto rit.