

INVESTITURE OF THE BARD OF THE MISTS

AND INDUCTION OF THE BARD EMERITUS INTO THE ORDER OF THE GOLDEN BRANCH

PREPARATION: None
Scroll/Promissory: Promissory (or scroll, if prepared), if new Bard is not armigerous (Award of Arms)
Token: Pendant for the Golden Branch

Herald: Your Highness, the Bard of the Mists requests audience.

 **Prince:** Let [him | her] come before us.

(The Bard comes forward, wearing the cloak and carrying the staff of the office, and bows to the Thrones. If the Bard has not yet done so, he/she makes a final presentation.)

Bard: Let the members of the Order of the Golden Branch come forward to witness the investiture of my successor.

(The members of the Order gather around the Thrones.)

Bard: Your Highness, a year ago I was chosen and invested as Bard of the Mists. My year of service is now at end, and I have chosen a successor whom I feel is worthy. I would present [him | her] to you that [he | she] may be invested as the new Bard of the Mists.


 **Prince:** Bring [him | her] forth that all here may know [him | her].

(The retiring Bard goes into the populace and brings forth his/her successor.)

Bard: Your Highness, I present to you _____. [He | She] has proved [himself | herself] worthy of becoming my successor by demonstrating [his | her] skills in the bardic arts in open competition with [his | her] skills.

 **Prince:** *(to current Bard)* Have you instructed _____ in the duties and responsibilities of the Bard of the Mists?

Bard: I have, Your Highness.

 **Prince:** *(to bard)* We release you from the oath of fealty which you made for your office.

(to successor) Are you now ready to take on the duties and responsibilities of the Bard of the Mists?

Successor: I am, Your Highness.


 **Prince:** Then kneel before Us and place your hands in Ours.

(Bard of the Mists and the Order of the Golden Branch, Cont.)

(The successor does as instructed.)


Herald: Do you, _____, now swear that you will faithfully perform the duties of the Bard of the Mists, that you will keep the bardic history of this Principality, that you will be ever ready to use your skills to promote the bardic arts, that you will put yourself under the Geas of the Bard of the Mists as set forth in law, and that when your year of service as Bard is accomplished, you will present your successor to be invested in your place to the Prince and Princess?

Successor: I so swear.

 **Prince:** **Then do We, _____, Prince of the Mists, acknowledge you as Bard of the Mists and, for Our part, swear to uphold your rights and privileges under custom and law, and We do further swear that We will protect you from any who would seek to silence your voice.**

Herald: Do you now swear fealty to _____ and _____, your undoubted Prince and Princess, and do you swear that you will obey Their lawful commands in all matters that concern the Principality, faithfully discharge the duties of your offices, uphold the Coronet and Laws of the Mists, and, mindful that the harmony of the Principality springs from your deeds, that you will treat all with courtesy, until the Prince and Princess depart from Their Thrones, death take you, or the world end?


New Bard: I so swear.

 **Prince:** **And We for Our part do swear fealty to this Bard of the Mists, and do swear to [him | her], that We will support [his | her] Office, and will protect and defend [him | her] with all Our power, until We depart from Our Throne, or death take Us, or the world end. So say We, _____, Prince of the Mists.**

 **Princess:** **So also say We, _____, Princess of the Mists.**

(If the new Bard is not already armigerous, the Herald shall read the scroll text (after the opening provided below), either from a scroll, promissory, or the text given:)


 **NO PREVIOUS AWARD OF ARMS**

 **Prince:** **Further, it is proper that one who has proved [himself | herself] worthy of this position, and who will undertake such high duty, be a noble of Our realm. Therefore, do We at this time give unto you an Award of Arms.**

 **NO SCROLL FOR AWARD OF ARMS**

Herald: _____, whereas it has come to Our notice that through diverse, great efforts you have considerably enriched Our Principality, it is thus Our pleasure to reward you with an Award of Arms. We grant you the rights and charge you with the responsibilities of this rank, and We further grant you the right to bear as Arms such device as you may have properly registered with Our heralds, in the Kingdom of the West and throughout the Known World. By Our word and hand this ___ day of _____, in the ____ year of the Kingdom of the West.

_____, Princeps
_____, Princepessa.

 **Princess:** **Let the new Bard of the Mists be vested with the symbols of [his | her] station.**

Former Bard: These are the symbols of the Bard of the Mists. Wear them with honor and bring honor to them.

(The outgoing Bard removes the cloak and gives it and the staff to the members of the Order of the Golden Branch to hold, or, if no members of the Order are present, the retiring Bard gives the cloak to the Prince and the staff to the Princess. The outgoing Bard puts the baldric of the office on the new Bard. The former Bard then takes the cloak and places it on the new Bard. Then the former Bard gives the staff to the new Bard.)

Herald: For _____, Bard of the Mists, Hip, hip!

New Bard: Your Highness, it is now time to invest _____ as a member of the Order of the Golden Branch.

(Bard of the Mists and the Order of the Golden Branch, Cont.)

Herald: It is written in law that those who have held the position of Bard of the Mists shall, upon completion of their duties as Bard and the investiture of their successor, be themselves inducted into the Order of the Golden Branch, the purpose of this Order being to assist the Bard in [his | her] duties and to promote the bardic arts throughout the Principality. The members of the Order shall be distinguished by the badge of the Order, which is a golden branch hung with bells in the form of a pendant on a ribbon of seven colors, for in olden times the golden branch was the symbol of the highest achievement in the poetic arts, and only the highest bards were allowed to wear seven colors in their garments.

(The new Bard faces the Princess and hands Her the medallion of the Order of the Golden Branch.)

New Bard: *(To Princess)* Your Highness, it would give me great pleasure if by Your hands _____ is invested as a member of the Order of the Golden Branch.

(The former Bard kneels before the Princess.)



Princess: **It will give Us great pleasure to do so.**
_____, you have served Us and Our predecessors well
as Bard of the Mists.
It pleases Us greatly to invest you
as a member of the Order of the Golden Branch.

(The Princess places the medallion on the former Bard.)

Herald: For _____, newest member of the Order of the Golden Branch, Hip, hip!