

# *THE EMMA AWARDS*

*BY*

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Reprinting The Emma Awards granted

The Emma awards were recently performed in the Alta View Ward in Sandy, Utah. Comments include:

“I’ve been inactive, but I felt the Spirit, and I want to come back to church.”

“This was just what our ward needed.”

“This was a wonderful evening for our sisters.”

# THE EMMA AWARDS

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Three people are needed for this Emma award's ceremony: a male and female Master of Ceremonies, and a sister who will depict Emma. Emma will appear in the frame at the beginning of every series of awards.

Setting: A podium for the Master of Ceremonies, and a life-size picture frame in which each sister will step after she has come up to the stage from the back. As her name is called she stands in the frame. The sister will then step down the stairs that lead from the stage to the floor and return to her seat.

Master of Ceremonies male: The Relief Society Birthday social is proud to present A NIGHT AT THE EMMAS. We are so glad you came. We are here to honor women. We know that you will rejoice with us in the excitement of this evening's awards.

Master of Ceremonies female: Emma Hale Smith was the wife of the Prophet Joseph Smith. In her life she demonstrated the qualities of womanhood that we can emulate. Every sister, no matter what her calling, is a member of Relief Society, the Lord's organization for women.

MCM: On the subject of woman...

MCF: Sheri Dew has said, "I've never been able to find the words to adequately articulate the depth and breathe of a righteous woman's reach. It is simply not possible to measure or limit the influence a righteous woman has on her husband and children and extended family members, as well as on others who feel like family."

MCM: Elder Neal A. Maxwell put it this way: "When the real history of mankind is fully disclosed, will it feature the echoes of gunfire or the shaping sound of lullabies? The great armistices made by military men or the peacemaking of women in homes and in neighborhoods? Will what happened in cradles and kitchens proved to be more controlling than what happened in congresses?"

MCF: Early in the Restoration, the Lord gave a revelation to Emma that depicts the characteristics he desires in his daughters as they participate in his latter-day kingdom. The Lord called her “An elect lady, who I have called.” And further states, “And verily... I say unto you, that this is my voice unto all.” The Lord presented a pattern for women who would be “Elect ladies.” Emma Smith was exemplary in many ways. We have chosen just a few of these qualities to highlight tonight.

MCM: We have discovered that the sisters in our Relief Society are equally exemplary. So tonight our EMMA awards go to you! Our first award will be a Woman of Music. Speaking of music...What do you get if Bach dies and comes back as twins.

MCF: What?

MCM: Rebachs.

MCF: OK! How many tenors does it take to screw in a light bulb?

MCM: How many?

MCF: Five. One to screw it in ... and 4 to say it's too high.

MCF: Emma, a Woman of Music. (She steps into the frame with hymn book or and holds her arm up as if leading music.) She was asked of the Lord to compile sacred songs to be sung by the saints. The music we enjoy in our meetings had it's origin from her willingness to keep this commandment of the Lord. We still continue to be blessed with this music in our lives.

MCF: Tonight the EMMA award for Woman of Music goes to ...

MCM: The Envelope please ...

MCF: Receiving the awards for Women of Music are ...

(Sisters have been put at special tables according to their awards and then are lead to the stage to await their turn to stand in the frame.

MCM: Did you hear that last year all of Bach's original manuscripts began disappearing!

MCF: No. What happened?

MCM: They thought maybe it was the occult that was to blame, so researchers dug up his grave.

MCM: He was decomposing! That reminds me of another joke.

MCF: Ok, let's hear it.

MCM: A man is walking down the beach and comes across an old bottle. Picking it up, he pulls out the cork. Sure enough, out pops a huge, blue genie. The genie says, "Thank you for freeing me from my prison. In return, I will grant you three wishes." The man says "Perfect...I always dreamed of this, and I know exactly what I want. First, I want 1 billion dollars in a Swiss bank account." Suddenly, there is a flash of light and a detailed list with Swiss Bank account numbers appears in his hand. He continues, "Next, I want a brand new red Ferrari right here." There is another flash of light and a bright red Ferrari appears right next to him. He continues, "Finally, I want to be irresistible to women." A final blaze of light and he turns into a box of chocolates!

(Emma moves into the frame and stands with a broom and acts like she is dancing with it.)

MCF: You know Emma was a Woman of Humor and good cheer. She brought happiness into the life of the Prophet when things became difficult for him. While he was in Liberty Jail Joseph wrote letters to Emma in which his comments help us to get an insight into her personality. The Prophet Joseph Smith's mind was filled with the events of the present ... and distressing thoughts of the future ... and fears of what it might hold. It is interesting that that which he needed ... came apparently from ... his wife, Emma. The Prophet Joseph Smith says he read and reread her letters which were filled with love, kindness, and hope; and then the Prophet said: ... (Quote)"We received some letters last evening-one from Emma...all breathing a kind and consoling spirit. We were much gratified with their contents. We had been a long time without information; and when we read those letters they were to our soul as the gentle air is refresh." Assisted by reading those kind, loving, encouraging letters, the Prophet Joseph Smith became mentally and spiritually receptive to the promptings of the Holy Ghost;

MCM: Tonight the EMMA award for Women of Humor goes to...

MCF: The Envelope please...

MCM: Receiving the awards for Women of Humor are...

MCF: And now to pay tribute to women in their own special way in song, (enumerate singer's names) tell us Why it Takes a woman. They will be accompanied by (name the accompanist).

SONG: It Takes a Woman (music from Hello Dolly)

It takes a woman all powdered and pink  
To joyously clean out the drain in the sink  
And it takes an angel with long golden lashes  
And soft Dresden fingers  
For breaking up clashes.  
Yes, it takes a woman  
A dainty woman  
A sweetheart, a female, a wife.

All: Oh yes, it takes a woman  
A fragile women  
To bring you the sweet things in life.

Solo: The frail young maiden who's constantly there  
For washing and ironing and cutting my hair  
And it takes a woman for setting the table  
And washing the dishes  
And fixing the cable!

All Oh yes it takes a woman  
A dainty woman  
A sweetheart, a female, a wife.  
Oh yes, it takes a woman  
A fragile women  
To bring you the sweet things in life.

And so she'll work until infinity.  
Three cheers for femininity...

Solo: And in the winter, she'll shovel the ice  
And lovely set out the traps for the mice.  
She's a joy and treasure, for practically speaking  
To whom can you turn when the plumbing is leaking...?

All: To that dainty woman  
That fragile women  
That sweetheart, that female, that wife.  
That womanly wife.  
Oh yes it takes a woman

Solo: A husky woman

All: To bring you the sweet things in life!  
Oh yes, it takes a women,  
A dainty woman  
A sweet, a mistress, a wife  
Oh yes it takes a woman  
A fragile women  
To bring you the sweet things in life.

MCM: Emma was a Woman of Faith. (She steps into the frame with her scriptures). Unlike the typical frontier town, Nauvoo was settled by families, and the community was dependent on women for its remarkably rapid development. They were committed to building up the kingdom, having committed themselves at conversion. The hardships they encountered did not deter them. Like so many others, Mary Field Garner, who lost a husband and two children after reaching Nauvoo, entertained no thought of abandoning her resolve. "We were too thankful," she wrote, "to be at Nauvoo with the other Saints of God, and to be associated with our Prophet and leader, Joseph Smith, and to listen to his teachings ... to complain about our problems." Emma had this kind of faith.

MCF: The EMMA award for Women of Faith goes to ...

MCM: The Envelope please ...

MCF: Receiving the awards for Women of Faith are ... (each woman steps into the frame as her name is called.)

MCM: Now we will be spotlighting Women of Patience. To see if you have patience, pretend that you are taking a small child for a walk. Get ready to go out. Wait outside the toilet for half an hour. Go out the front door. Come in again. Go out. Come back in. Go out again. Walk down the front path. Walk back up it. Walk down it again. Walk very slowly down the road for 5 minutes. Stop to inspect minutely every scrap of paper and piece of used chewing gum, dirty tissue and dead insect along the way. Retrace your steps. Insist that you've had as much as you can stand, and give up and go back into the house. If you can do this, you probably have patience.

MCF: Or try this ... Always repeat everything you say at least five times. If you can manage this ... you have patience.

MCM: Emma was a woman of Patience. (Emma steps into the picture frame with a basket of clothing.) She has to learn very early in her marriage about patience. She had endured tumultuous experiences since her marriage to Joseph. The attempts by gold-seekers to wrest the plates from Joseph, the harassment during their translation, the mobs that followed them, the unwarranted arrest of Joseph, as well as the alienation from her parents, the loss of home and roots, and the death of her first child. All these gave Emma a harsh introduction to the life of a prophet's wife. An early lesson from these experiences was that only patience and trust in God's wisdom and often inscrutable purposes would sustain her through the difficult times

MCF: The EMMA award for the Women of Patience goes to ...

MCM: The Envelope please ...

MCF: Receiving the awards for Women of Patience are ...

MCM: Next, we would like to talk about the Women of Service.

MCF: I know about service ...

MCM: You do?

MCF: Yes, the other day, I went with my husband to the doctor's office for a check up. After the checkup the doctor called me into his office alone. He said:

MCM: (Change your voice, put on stethoscope.) Your husband is suffering from a very severe disease, combined with horrible stress. If you don't do the following, your husband will surely die. Each morning, fix him a healthy breakfast. Be pleasant, and make sure he is in a good mood. For lunch, make him a nutritious meal he can take to work. And for dinner, prepare an especially nice meal for him. Don't burden him with chores, as this could further his stress. Don't discuss your problems with him; it will only make his stress worse. Try to relax your husband in the evening by playing soft music and giving him backrubs. Encourage him to watch some type of team sporting event on TV. And most importantly, listen to him and satisfy his every whim. If you can do this for the next 10 months to a year, I think your husband will regain his health.



MCF: So, I come out of the office and while I'm driving home my husband asks me, "What did the doctor say?" I told him ... "You're going to die."

MCM: Fortunately, Emma was a Woman of Service (She steps out with a basin and a rag.) When many of the saints were sick and the Prophet went out to administer blessings for their recovery, Emma accompanied him to give physical relief whenever possible. She aided her husband in the work of translation, and served the sisters in many ways through compassionate service.

MCF: The EMMA Award for Service go to...

MCM: The Envelope please...

MCF: Receiving the awards for Women of Service are...

MCM: Sisters, (announce singers) will sing My Hands accompanied by

SONG: My Hands by Lex De Azevedo & Carol Lynn Pearson  
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My hands are the Lord's hands  
Without me how can His work be done?  
I reach where He would reach,  
Loving kindness in my touch  
I'll be His healing hands to ev'ry one.

My feet are the Lord's feet  
Without me how can He walk with the poor?  
I will go where He would go,  
Blessing others as I do.  
For Him I'll walk where I've never walked before.

Help me, Lord, let me give to my neighbor  
What you would give if you were here.  
Help me, Lord let me live so my neighbor  
Will know that you are always there.

My mouth is the Lord's mouth  
Without me how can His voice be heard?  
I will say what He would say,  
Speaking love and life each day.  
And ev'ryone who's near will hear my word.

MCM: Emma was a Woman of Testimony. (She steps into the frame and acts as if she is talking; perhaps her hand is out as if explaining a principle). She had a consummate testimony of the work. She was privilege to be a first hand witness to the translation and was permitted to see the plates. She was by her husband side and saw and heard and bore witness of the truth of the gospel.

MCM: The Emma award for Women of Testimony goes to ...

MCF: The Envelope please...

MCM: Receiving the awards for Women of Testimony are ...

MCF: You know women are very busy these days.

MCM: You're right!

MCF: So busy, in fact, that sometimes woman's purses look like suitcases.

MCM: What do women keep in those purses?

MCF: I can't tell you for sure, but I heard about this juvenile delinquent that stole a woman's purse last week in New York's Central Park?

MCM: Really. What happened?

MCF: He got twenty seven dollars, and a hernia.

MCM: Serves him right!

MCF: Women have important work to do, they need to be ready. Women of Leadership are always ready to serve where they are called.

MC M: Emma Smith was a Woman of Leadership. (She steps into the frame with writing materials.) She was made President of the Relief Society. Joseph states, "I will organize the sisters under the priesthood after the pattern of the priesthood," and later added, "[the] Church was never perfectly organized until the women were thus organized."

MCF: The EMMA awards for Women of Leadership go to ...

MC M: The Envelope please ...

MCF: Receiving the awards for Women of Leadership are ...  
(women step into the frame and receive the award)

MCF: You know the other day a student made the teacher quite surprised. He tapped her on the shoulder and said, I don't want to scare you, but my daddy says if I don't get better grades, somebody is going to get a spanking."

MCM: Sounds like he understood the importance of education.

MCF: Yes, just like the Women of Education.

MCM: Emma was a woman of Education. (She steps in the frame with an armful of books.) She understood the Lords directive that the Glory of God is intelligence. She strove to educate herself, and to educate the woman around her. This pattern continues in the church today.

MCF: The EMMA award for Women of Education awards goes to ...

MCM: The Envelope please ...

MCF: Receiving the awards for The Women of Education are ...

MCM: Reflecting how we can personally teach and reach others just by the lives we live, Sister ... will sing, I Want to be a Window to His Love, accompanied by

MCF: My friend Lyndsey was telling me the other day that her kids were giving her a headache.

MCM: Oh, I'm sorry.

MCF: Well, she said she was fine, and she just followed the directions on the bottle of aspirin.

MCM: Did she take a lot of aspirins?

MCF: No, She just followed the directions on the bottle. It says "KEEP AWAY FROM CHILDREN."

MCM: Emma was a Woman of Family. (Emma steps in with a baby in her arms.) Her family was her highest priority, starting with her husband. She bore and lost children and raised other women's children, and settled her life around their care and keeping.

MCF: The Emma award for Women of Family goes to ...

MCM: The Envelope please ...

MCF: Receiving the awards for Women of Family are ...

MCM: I know I'm not going to ever fully understand women.

MCF: Why not?

MCM: I'll never understand how you can take boiling hot wax, pour it onto your legs, and rip the hair out by the roots, and still be afraid of a spider.

MCF: Well it takes courage! Emma was a Woman of Courage. (She steps into the frame and has her arms folded across her chest and a firm look on her face.) Here is an example from one of the histories: "On Sunday they dammed up the river to baptize over a dozen people, but a mob gathered and tore the dam down, threatening persecution and harm. Early Monday morning the Saints dammed up the river again and baptized thirteen people, including Emma Smith.

A mob of 50 surrounded them and watched. Joseph wrote of Emma," How glorious were my feelings ... when I took by the hand ... my beloved Emma. When I contemplated for a moment the many scenes we had been called to pass through, the fatigues and the toils and sorrows and sufferings ... from time to time. Oh what a commingling of thought filled my mind, she is here, even in the seventh hour, trouble-undaunted, firm and unwavering-unchangeable, affectionate, Emma."

MCF: The EMMA award for Woman of Courage goes to ...

MCM: The Envelope please ...

MCF: Receiving the awards for Women of Courage are ...

MCM: We believe that the Lord loves to honor and bless the sisters of his church. Tonight He delights to honor the woman of our ward. You have been Women of Service, Leadership, Courage, and Patience as we have passed through many trials. We know that all of you possess many gifts and talents above the single one you have received tonight. You could receive multiple awards. As sisters in Zion the Lord has been generous in his blessings to us. We want to honor all of you at this time. Would you all please stand. We award you all with the EMMA AWARD for OVERALL Achievement as Sisters in Zion. We acknowledge your exemplary lives and the way you share your many talents to build up the Lord's kingdom in this part of his vineyard. Please join us in singing As Sister in Zion.

SONG: As Sisters in Zion Hymns # 309

As sisters in Zion, we'll all work together  
The blessings of God on our labors we'll seek  
We'll build up his kingdom with earnest endeavor;  
We'll comfort the weary and strengthen the weak

The errand of angels is given to woman  
And this is a gift that, as sisters we claim:  
To do whatsoever is gentle and human,  
To cheer and to bless in humanity's name.

How vast is our purpose, how broad is our mission  
If we but fulfill it in spirit and deed.  
Oh, naught but the Spirits divinest tuition  
Can give us the wisdom to truly succeed.

Closing prayer

(Consider adapting "I'm Worth 8 Cows to your Emma Awards." Words found on GAILHJOHNSON.COM website.)

