

## Can the Circle be Unbroken

Can The Circle Be Unbroken is the title of a country/folk song reworked by A. P. Carter from the hymn "Will the Circle Be Unbroken?" by Ada R. Habershon and Charles H. Gabriel.

Most cover versions of the song use the alternate title Will the Circle be Unbroken. In 1988, springing from the Great Hudson River "Clearwater" Revivals (now referred to as Festivals) which Pete Seeger championed from the mid-1960s through the present, the second line of the chorus was rewritten and copyrighted by Cathy Winter, Betsy Rose, Marcia Taylor and Terry Dash as Rise Up Singing.

<sup>G</sup> 1. I was standing by the window on a <sup>C</sup> cold and <sup>G</sup> cloudy day  
 And I saw the hearse come rolling for to carry my mother a-way <sup>D</sup> <sup>G</sup>

Chorus:

<sup>G</sup> Can the circle be unbroken by and by, <sup>C</sup> Lord, by and by <sup>G</sup>  
 There's a better home a-waiting, in the sky, <sup>D</sup> Lord, <sup>G</sup> in the sky

Instrumental

<sup>G</sup> 2. Lord I told the undertaker, "Under-<sup>C</sup>taker, please drive <sup>G</sup> slow,  
 For this body you are haulin' Lord, I hate to see her go." <sup>D</sup> <sup>G</sup>

Chorus

Instrumental 2

<sup>G</sup> 3. I followed close behind her, tried to hold up and be <sup>C</sup> brave,  
 But I could not hide my sorrow, when they laid her in the <sup>D</sup> <sup>G</sup> grave.

Chorus

Instrumental 3

<sup>G</sup> 4. Went back home Lord, my home was lonesome,  
 Since my mother she was <sup>C</sup> <sup>G</sup> gone.  
 All my brothers, sisters cryin' what a home so sad and a-lone. <sup>D</sup> <sup>G</sup>

Chorus

Chorus A cappella

