

Music for your wedding

This document is intended to explain what choices of music may be made for the wedding ceremony by the couple, and to give suggestions for possible pieces of music to be used.

Please note that this and the following page are only a guide based on traditional choices made by many wedding couples. Individual requests will be accommodated where possible.

At any wedding there are four main decisions to be made concerning the music. Same-sex couples may of course wish to vary the traditional pattern.

§ Music before the ceremony as the guests arrive

§ Music for The Procession of the Bride (what she will walk down the aisle to)

§ Music during the service i.e. during the signing of the registers (hymn choices are a separate issue for you to discuss with the Priest)

§ Music for The Recession – as you leave the church

1.) Pre-ceremony and Prelude Music

This sets the mood, which is usually quiet, and acts to prepare everyone for the service.

The music can be classical, romantic, love songs, religious, folk, celtic or any combination. You may use the CD player attached to the PA system in St Peter's, which of course requires advance notice to the Priest officiating at the service. If you have no preferences then I will simply play a traditional selection – many couples choose this option.

2.) Processional Music

The processional music is traditionally majestic, grand and stately. The bride's entrance is announced by uplifting music and everyone stands to welcome her. The bride often enters to the Bridal Chorus ('Here comes the Bride'), however there are many alternatives.

3.) Music during the Service (signing of the registers)

Some couples choose to have a solo singer or choir to provide music for the signing of the registers. (Frequently the bride and groom will ask a friend to sing during the ceremony.) If you would like a choir or a soloist, but do not have anyone specific in mind please contact me and I will advise on booking and fees etc. Otherwise many couples choose to have an organ piece.

4.) Recessional Music

The recessional voluntary happens at the very end of the wedding ceremony i.e. as the newly-married couple process out of the church.

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POSSIBLE CHOICES

What follows is a traditional selection of pieces which couples tend to opt for. These are designed for the organ. For possible pieces of music to be sung by a choir or soloist please contact me. The music suggested below can be listened to on a CD which can be borrowed from the Vicar (The Revd Charles Draper).

To help you with your service booklets I have styled these pieces as you may wish to present them in a printed order of service, if you decide to have one.

Pre-ceremony and Prelude Music

"Air" from Handel's suite *The Water Music*

"Air on the G String" from J. S. Bach's *Orchestral Suite No.3*

"Canon in D" by Pachelbel

Processional Music

Traditional Wedding March from *Lohengrin* by Wagner

Processional to "Te Deum" by Charpentier

"Trumpet Tune" by Purcell

"Trumpet Voluntary" ("Prince of Denmark's March") by Clarke

"Arrival of the Queen of Sheba" from Handel's *Solomon*

"Hornpipe" from Handel's Suite *The Water Music*

Music during the Service (signing of the registers)

"Ave Maria" by Schubert

"Ave Maria" by Bach/Gounod

"Air on the G String" from J. S. Bach's *Orchestral Suite No.3*

"Canon in D" by Pachelbel

"Jesu, joy of man's desiring" by J.S. Bach

Recessional Music

"Wedding March" from Mendelssohn's incidental music to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

"Ode to Joy" by Beethoven

"Hornpipe" from Handel's Suite *The Water Music*

"Toccata" from Widor's *Organ Symphony No. 5*

Good luck with all your preparations! Please contact me (preferably by email) if you wish to discuss anything. My contact details are on the Music page.

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