

This document is intended to explain what choices of music need to be made by the bride and groom for the wedding ceremony 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:

- **Music before the ceremony as the guests arrive**
- **Music for The Procession of the Bride (what you 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 S. Peter's however this 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 she may wish to choose something else.

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 then 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.

Music for your wedding



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 (Revd Dr Mark Butchers).

(To help you with your service booklets I have styled these pieces as you should present them in your orders of service.)

Pre-ceremony and Prelude Music

"Air", from Handel's "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 ("Here Comes the Bride"), 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 "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 "A Midsummer Night's Dream"

"Ode to Joy" by Beethoven

"Hornpipe" from Handel's "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.

David Bannister

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