

## ... music for YOUR WEDDING

Choosing music is one of the many planning tasks which go into making your wedding day a success. As with everything else connected with your wedding, lots of people will offer well-intentioned advice and tell you what you should or should not do. There is of course also much useful material on the subject to be found on the internet. I hope you'll find these personal notes helpful, but remember there are no rules – it's your day, so it's your choice.

### **What music is needed?**

During the service, it's normally effective to have two hymns. You can have more if you wish – or you can choose not to have any. Try to choose hymns which your guests will be able to join in with, and which are also meaningful to you. To get you started, I've set out on the next page some suggestions for you to consider.

It's usually a good idea to print the hymns in the order of service. If you are using hymns from the church's hymn book, this will be covered by our copyright licence. If you wish to use hymns or songs from another source, you will need to check whether this source is covered by our licence and if not deal with copyright licensing requirements yourselves.

You will also need music for the entry of the bride (which might be joyous or stately, depending on how you are approaching the ceremony), for the signing of the register (usually something quiet and reflective) and for your exit as a married couple (which had better be joyous!). There are many alternatives to the once-traditional pieces. You may perhaps wish to give your wedding a particularly Scottish flavour, or you may have music which means something to you personally. Again, I've offered some ideas in case you are stuck.

### **Who plays the music?**

Organ music is the traditional choice for weddings and if you would like me to play for you, please get in contact early on so that I can get the date in my diary. Fees depend on your requirements, which I am happy to discuss with you before you commit yourselves. Alternatively, you might want to involve your own musical friends in providing your wedding music. Any competent player is welcome to play the church organ or electronic piano.

If you wish to use recorded music, you will be responsible for copyright licensing requirements. You should bear in mind that you will need some fairly powerful kit to fill the church with sound – I suggest you obtain guidance from a professional.

If you are thinking of a Scottish theme, you may wish to include a piper in your plans. The bride may wish to be piped in, although pipes can get a bit overwhelming in the restricted space of the church. You can station a piper at the church door, but this prevents pre-service organ music and makes welcoming guests difficult. I have found the best location for a piper is in the car park!

### **How do we get help?**

I am happy to discuss music with couples planning their wedding. I'd prefer initial contact by e-mail to [stuart@scatha.co.uk](mailto:stuart@scatha.co.uk) but you may also be able to reach me by phone on 01479 841321. If you wish, we can meet to play over hymns and other pieces so that you can make your choices. Both in your preparation and on the day itself, you are among friends.

Stuart Palmer  
Director of Music, St John's Episcopal Church, Rothiemurchus

**Hymns** (numbers are from the church hymn book, *Hymns Old & New – new Anglican edition*)

- 4 A new commandment
- 60 Bind us together, Lord
- 73 The servant song
- 115 Eternal Ruler of the ceaseless round
- 120 Father, hear the prayer we offer
- 137 For the beauty of the earth
- 184 Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost
- 208 Help us to help each other, Lord
- 279 Jesus, stand among us
- 293 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
- 313 Lord of all hopefulness
- 321 Love divine, all loves excelling
- 328 Make me a channel of your peace
- 354 Now thank we all our God
- 387 O perfect love
- 467 Tell out, my soul

**Bridal entrance** (\*also suitable for exit procession)

- The traditional bridal march *"Here comes the bride"* (Wagner)
- Canon in D (Pachelbel)
- Nimrod from enigma variations (Elgar)
- Trumpet tune\* (Purcell)
- Trumpet voluntary\* (Clarke)
- Te Deum prelude\* (Charpentier)
- Jesu, joy of man's desiring (Bach)
- Methven castle\* (Tambling)
- Ave verum corpus (Mozart)
- Largo from Xerxes (Handel)
- To a wild rose (MacDowell)
- Fanfare for a bride (Rawsthorne)
- A highland rose (Tambling)

**Exit procession**

- Wedding march (Mendelssohn)
- Now thank we all our God (Kaufmann)
- Royal Knights: a ceremonial march (Tambling)
- Festive procession (Bryan)
- Procession *"For Sharon"* (Knott)
- Alla marcia (Jacob)
- Sortie in F (Franck)

**Fees**

The standard fee (correct as at August 2013), payable direct to the organist on or before the day of the ceremony, is £70. This includes the option of a personal consultation and advice about your musical choices (and as many e-mails as are necessary to sort out the details!). The fee may be higher if your requirements are complex, or if I need to attend the ceremony rehearsal or rehearsals with other musicians. If you wish to make an audio or video recording of the ceremony, the fee is increased by 50%. However, in contrast to some other venues, no fee is payable if you choose to provide your own musicians. Any fees for copyright licences for items not covered by the church's licence will be your own responsibility.