

# THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY'S BARNES

## MUSIC

From the Director of Music

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This section 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 what follows is only a guide based on traditional choices made by many wedding couples. Individual requests will be accommodated where possible.*

### **At a wedding there are five 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 e.g. during the signing of the registers**
- **Hymns**
- **Music for The Recession – as you leave the church**

#### **Pre-ceremony music as the guests arrive**

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 Mary's however this requires advance notice to the Priest officiating at the service. If you have no preferences then the organist will simply play a traditional selection – many couples choose this option.

Suggestions:

"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

**If you choose to have church bells rung then it is not possible to have pre-ceremony music.**

#### **Music for The Procession of The Bride**

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 couples may wish to choose something else.

Suggestions:

Wedding March from *Lohengrin* by Wagner

Processional to *Te Deum* by Charpentier

A Trumpet Tune by Purcell

A 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 (e.g. during the signing of the registers)**

Some couples choose to have a solo singer or choir to provide music for the signing of the registers. Sometimes 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.

Suggestions:

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

## Hymns

At St Mary's we use the Ancient & Modern Hymnbook for our services, however, as many couples opt for a separate service sheet you can choose your hymns from a wider source and have the text printed separately. Please do discuss your hymn choice with both the Priest and the Director of Music.

Suggestions: There are usually two or three hymns during a wedding service. Try to find hymns that are familiar to those who will be present - and are easy to sing! The following are popular choices:

All things bright and beautiful

Come down O love divine

Love divine, all loves excelling

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

Lord of all hopefulness

Make me a channel of your peace

Morning has broken

Now thank we all our God

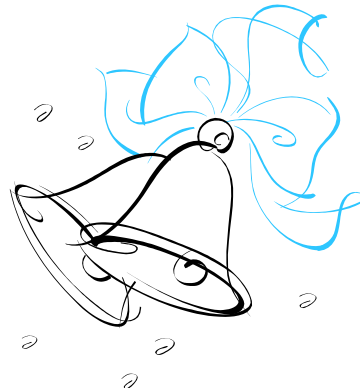
Praise my soul, the king of heaven

The king of love my shepherd is

Guide me O thou great redeemer

Jerusalem

The Lord of the Dance



## 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.

Suggestions:

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 in F*

Once you have thought about all these music matters please fill in the Music Planning Form and arrange a meeting with the Director of Music.

We know that there are many decisions for couples to make about their wedding ceremony and you will want to make these carefully. However, if you have requested an organist and/or choir and cancel less than two months before the wedding we will have to apply a cancellation charge.

**RESOURCES**

In addition to this document printed exemplar wedding orders of service are available from the Parish Office by request. We recommend the following online resources:

- [www.yourchurchwedding.org/planner](http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/planner)  
An official site of the Church of England with an excellent Wedding Planning aid.
- <https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/your-church-wedding/planning-your-ceremony/hymns-your-wedding>
- <https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/your-church-wedding/planning-your-ceremony/bible-readings-your-wedding>

# WEDDING MUSIC PLANNING FORM



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<b>Wedding Date</b>	
<b>Time</b>	
<b>Bride's Name</b>	
<b>Groom's Name</b>	

## MUSIC CHOICES

Pre-Ceremony Music (as the guests arrive)	
Music for The Procession of The Bride	
Music during the Service (e.g. during register signing)	
Hymns	
Recessional Music	
Choir	
Soloist(s)	

## PAGE FOR YOUR NOTES