

HAVERHILL & WITHERSFIELD BENEFICE

Music for Weddings



Director of Music
Richard Hart
Tel: 01440 710077

Music for your Wedding

Music plays an important part in your wedding ceremony and the right choices will do much to enhance the occasion and create the right atmosphere as the service moves through its various stages.

I hope you will find the following suggestions helpful as you plan your special day. At St Mary's we have a very fine organ, a very good set of bells and an excellent choir.

We encourage you, as you have decided to get married here, to make full use of what is available to you and as the Director of Music I would be pleased to advise and help you in your choices of music and hymns/songs.

1. Music before the service

As Organist I like to play quiet and reflective music to set the mood of quiet anticipation, unless you would like some special piece. You do not need exciting music yet as that will come with the **ENTANCE OF THE BRIDE**

2. Music for the entrance of the Bride

The choice of music here is designed to herald the arrival of the bride, and hence should be triumphant and joyful. The following are ideal pieces for the bridal party to comfortably process down the aisle of the church

Music for the Entrance of the Bride

The Bridal March	Wagner
Trumpet Voluntary	J. Clarke
Entry of the Queen of Sheba	Handel
Trumpet Tune	Purcell
Largo	Handel
Prelude to Te Deum	Charpentier
Trumpet Air	J. Stanley
Hornpipe from the Water Music	Handel
Minuet from The Firework Music	Handel
Grand March from Aida	Verdi

3. Choice of music during the signing of the Registers

There is often time for two pieces of music during the signing of the registers. Here is a list of some suggested pieces. The choice is extremely wide and varied and special pieces can be chosen that do not appear here. If you choose to have the choir they have a selection of suitable pieces that could be sung at this time

Music during the signing of the Registers

Canon in D by Pachabel
Your raise me up
Anything I do
Panis Angelicus
Whiter shade of pale
Love Story
Love changes everything
Your song
Love is all around
Memories from Cats
Wind beneath my wings
Salut D'Amor
Water Music - Handel
Ave Maria Bach Gounod or Caccini
Jesu, Joy of man's desiring
Unchained Melody
Air on a G string
Pavane - Faure
Love theme from Titanic
Annie's Song
Candle in the wind
I believe my heart
Can't help falling in love
From a distance
From this moment on
Can you feel the love tonight

Or any other pieces of your choice providing the music is available

4. Choice of Hymns/Songs

At your wedding you can usually have up to three hymns/songs, although most couples choose just two. The hymns/songs you choose can mean something to you personally or your family although it is advisable to choose something that is well known or popular so you, your family and friends can participate fully in the singing

Suggestion of Hymns and Songs

Morning has broken

One more step

Lord of the dance

Give me joy

Amazing Grace

All things bright and beautiful

Lord Jesus Christ

Praise my soul

Make me a channel

Love divine

Lord of all hopefulness

I have also included in the final pages some newer hymns/songs that are proving to be popular

5. The Wedding Procession

This is the grand finale and the time 'to go to town'. A triumphant exit will work well with full organ and bells

The Wedding March Mendelssohn

Toccata from the Organ Symphony by Widor

Now thank we all our God Karg-Elert

Entry of the Queen of Sheba by Handel

Trumpet Tune Purcell

Toccata in D J.S Bach

Prelude to Te Deum Charpentier

Trumpet Voluntary J. Clarke

Grand March from Aida Verdi

Toccata in Seven by John Rutter

The examples given are suggestions only. You can of course choose other pieces of music if you wish.

To help you there are various websites to explore

www.yourchurchwedding.org
www.classicfm.co.uk/music/music-forweddings/
www.weddingmusic.co.uk
www.muiscforweddings

Hymn 'Be Our Chief Guest'

- 1 Be our chief guest, Lord, Lord of the living
Lord of all loving, this wedding day.
Bind us together in your sure keeping,
So we may never wander away.

- 2 Bless who have brought us up from our childhood
Caring, forgiving, through the long day;
May the same spirit shine in our home, Lord,
Lighting our pathway, we humbly pray.

- 3 Bless all our friends, Lord, happy and true friends,
Laughing and crying, always the same;
Bright with this friendship, may our own home be
Ready to welcome all in your name.

- 4 Be our chief guest, Lord, Lord of all living,
Warm with compassion showing the way.
Keep us together in loving service,
Families and friends, Lord, this wedding day.

(tune Morning has broken)

Hymn 'God of all living'

1 God of all living, Father we praise you,
Full of thanksgiving for so much love.
Now in this wedding, come down among us,
Pour out your blessing, Heavenly Dove.

2 With love's true splendour, Father delight us,
Each giving honour, with faithfulness;
And may the sharing of this sweet union
Deepen our caring with tenderness.

3 Perfect companions, God's gift in marriage,
One true communion, help on life's way,
May we be mindful in need and plenty,
May we be faithful every new day.

4 May there be children, fruits of our loving,
True men and women, with faith beside;
Grant us your keeping in all our future,
Your love caressing, Bridegroom and Bride.

(tune Morning has broken)

Hymn 'As Man and Women we were made'

As man and woman we were made
that love be found and life begun:
the likeness of the living God,
unique, yet called to live as one.
Through joy or sadness, calm or strife,
come, praise the love that gives us life.

Joy. Now Jesus lived and gave his love
to make our life and loving new
so celebrate with him today
and drink the joy he offers you
that makes the simple moment shine
and changes water into wine.

Hope. And Jesus died to live again
so praise the love that,
come what may, can bring
the dawn and clear the skies,
and waits to wipe all tears away
and let us hope for what shall be
believing where we cannot see.

Peace. Then spread the table, clear the hall
and celebrate till day is done;
let peace go deep between us all
and joy be shared by everyone:
laugh and make merry with your friends
and praise the love that never ends

(tune Sussex Carol)

Hymn 'Come to a wedding'

Come to a wedding,
Come to a blessing,
Come on a day when happiness sings!
Come rain or sun,
Come winter or summer,
Celebrate love and all that it brings.

Thanks for the love,
That holds us together,
Parent and child, and lover and friend;
Thanks to the God,
Whose love is our centre,
Source of compassion, knowing no end.

Love is the gift,
And love is the giver,
Love is the gold that
Makes the day shine;
Love forgets self to care for the other,
Love changes life from water to wine.

Come to this wedding,
Asking a blessing,
For all the years that living will prove;
Health of the body,
Health of the spirit,
Now to you both we offer our love.

(tune Morning has broken)