



# **St Peter's**

Leckhampton Parish Church

## **Music for your Wedding**

**Music is a vital and integral part of a marriage service and as such needs careful consideration.**

### **Before the service**

Music is played from about 15 minutes before the service begins, as your guests arrive and find their places in the church. Most couples are happy to leave the organist free to offer a selection of pieces of his own choice, but you can of course request particular favourite pieces to be played if you wish. Please note that, in the event of the very late arrival of the Bride, the organist reserves the right not to continue playing pre-service music beyond 15 minutes after the stated starting time. Although most of our weddings are able to begin on time, there have been one or two delayed starts in recent times, making it necessary to mention this point.

## **At the entry of the Bride**

The bridal procession takes only a few moments. It is good to choose a piece of music which either is fairly short or is made up of short sections and can easily be brought to a conclusion at a convenient moment. The traditional Bridal March, by Wagner, remains a popular choice, whilst various trumpet tunes offer a good alternative. Some other possibilities are:

The Prince of Denmark's March	Clarke
Trumpet Voluntary	Purcell
Trumpet Tune	Stanley
Prelude from Te Deum	Charpentier
March from the Occasional Oratorio	Handel
Rondeau from 'Abdelazar'	Purcell

## **During the signing of the registers**

As before the service, many couples are happy to leave the choice of music to the organist, but again you are welcome to request specific items. Something quieter and more reflective is usually appropriate at this point in the service. Some suggestions are:

Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring	J S Bach
Air on a G String	J S Bach
Sheep may safely graze	J S Bach
Pavane	Fauré
Air from the Water Music	Handel
Canon	Pachelbel

Guest choirs or soloists can be brought in to perform at this point in the service and the Director of Music is usually happy to accompany them, but they are welcome to bring their own accompanist with them if they wish. If you would like a choir or soloist but do not have the necessary contacts please speak to the Director of Music, who can usually arrange these.

## **As you leave the church**

A bold, cheerful piece is appropriate for the procession as you leave the church at the conclusion of the service. Mendelssohn's Wedding March is the most traditional choice and is excellent for the purpose. Other suggestions are:

Toccata (from the 5th Symphony)	Widor
Final (from the 1st Symphony)	Vieme
The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba	Handel
Hornpipe (from the Water Music)	Handel

## Hymns

Three hymns are included in the service. Make sure that you check the words of all the verses to see their suitability for use in a marriage service. Some popular hymns have alternative tunes so make sure that the organist knows which one you would like.

Some suggested choices include:

Bind us together Lord  
Come down, O love divine  
Father hear the prayer we offer  
For the beauty of the earth  
Give me joy in my heart {Sing Hosanna}  
Jesus, good above all other  
Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
Lord of all hopefulness  
Love divine, all loves excelling  
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

Further suggestions are available from the clergy. Always remember that some hymns, although well known, may have words that are entirely inappropriate to a wedding service.

### Agreeing your choices

Most couples find it helpful to arrange a consultation with our Director of Music to finalize their selection of music. Consultations usually take place in the church, giving you the opportunity to hear how various pieces sound on our organ. Friday evenings at 8.30 (after choir practice) are often a good time. This service is provided at no extra charge and he is happy to recommend CDs of appropriate music to help with planning your choices. Please contact the Director of Music to discuss your requirements:

John Wright  
01242 251483  
0775 351 9665

e-mail: [jworganist@hotmail.com](mailto:jworganist@hotmail.com)

## **What if the Director of Music is unable to play for your wedding?**

The Director of Music normally plays for all weddings booked at St. Peter's unless he is unavailable through holidays or prior commitments (or unless you wish to make your own alternative arrangements - see **Visiting Organists** below). If for any reason he is unable to play for your wedding it is still recommended that you take advantage of the consultation process described above to agree the choice of music for the service. The Director of Music will then make necessary arrangements to engage a fully competent substitute organist to play on the day.

## **Visiting Organists**

If you have a friend or relative who plays the organ you are welcome to use them as organist for your wedding in St. Peter's. Please note however that, in common with normal practice in most other churches, our Director of Music's fee is still charged in these circumstances.

Also please note that the Director of Music's fee is subject to a surcharge of 50% if a sound recording of the wedding service is made, or 100% if a video is made (whether by an official photographer or by a friend with a video camera). This entitles you to replay the organist's 'performance' after the event and to make as many copies of the recording as you wish. Please state when making the arrangements if it is your intention to record or video the service.

The organist's standard fee for 2010 is £100, and so this would be increased to £150 when a sound recording is made, and to £200 when a video recording is made. Any extra musical requirements (e.g. rehearsing at additional times with a soloist) may also incur a higher fee.

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