

Agreeing your choices

Most couples find it helpful to arrange a consultation with our Director of Music to finalise their selection of music. Consultations usually take place in the church giving you the opportunity to hear how various pieces sound on our organ. This service is provided at no extra charge and he is happy to recommend CDs of appropriate music. Please contact the Director of Music to discuss your requirements:

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0775 351 9665 (mobile)
email: 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.

Any extra musical requirements (e.g. rehearsing at additional times with a soloist) may incur a higher fee.



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.

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 <i>Te Deum</i>	Charpentier
March from the <i>Occasional Oratorio</i>	Handel

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
Air from the <i>Water Music</i>	Handel

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 <i>5th Symphony</i>)	Widor
Toccata (from the <i>1st Symphony</i>)	Vierne
The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba	Handel
Hornpipe (from the <i>Water Music</i>)	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:

Praise my soul the king of heaven
For the beauty of the earth
Lord of all hopefulness
Love divine, all loves excelling
The king of love my shepherd is
Now thank we all our god
Give me joy in my heart (Sing Hosanna)
Bind us together Lord
Come down, O love divine
Father hear the prayer we offer
Jesus, good above all other
Make me a channel of thy peace
Morning has broken
Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

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