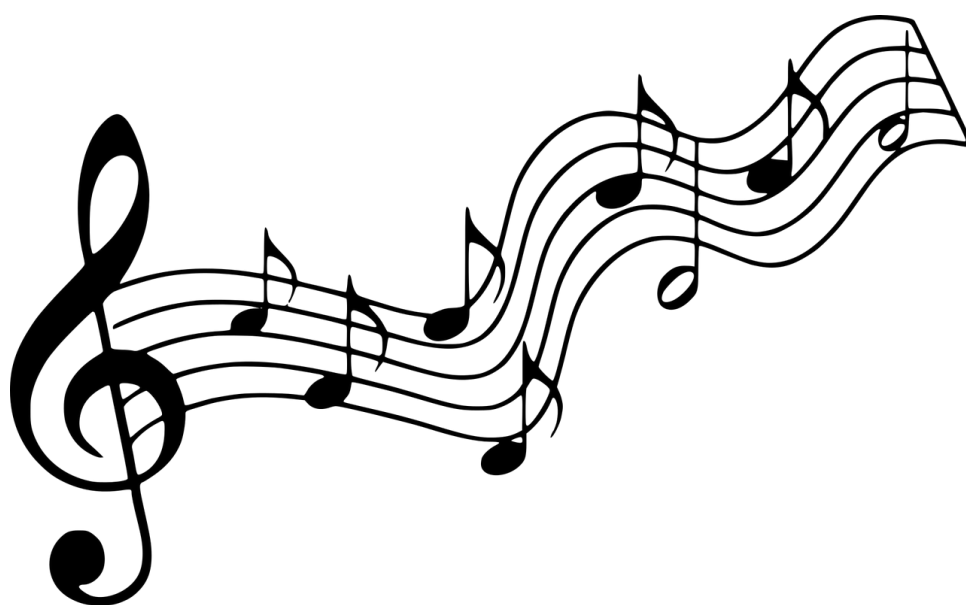


Music for your wedding in the Whitewater Benefice



**A short guide from our
Benefice Musicians**

Introduction

Firstly, congratulations on your decision to get married and we are pleased you have chosen to get married in one of the four churches within the Whitewater Benefice. This leaflet is designed to offer you some initial advice and guidance in choosing music for your service and point you towards resources to help.

Each of the four churches (Heckfield, Hook, Mattingley and Rotherwick) has an organ. St John's Hook also has a digital piano. Normally we can provide an organist for your service and, when requested, we may be able to arrange for members of the Hook choir to sing in any of our churches. Should you wish to arrange for your own organist, choir or other musicians to play, this is also possible. The fees for all these are detailed in the information which is provided to you by the Benefice office.

If you are using our musicians, then it is normal custom for us to offer you their contact details and a meeting well ahead of your planned wedding date, to chat through the possibilities. This meeting would usually take place in one of our churches, so that you can also hear some of the music played, to help you make your choices.

What music might you want?

In this leaflet, we offer you suggestions of music that would be appropriate for your ceremony. You are most welcome to make your own suggestions about the music you would like - this is **your** wedding. Our Benefice organists can already play a wide range of music - and may well agree to learn new music for your wedding (given sufficient notice).

Any special music would need to be provided to your organist (an original copy) or the organist may be able to source the music for you and invoice you for the cost. This can be discussed with your organist.

Sometimes, if you have a musical guest attending, it may be appropriate to explore the possibility that they might play/sing e.g. during the signing of the marriage documents. Your organist may be able to accompany this if arranged in advance.

When do you need music

- Before the start of the service (usually selected by our organist) - we would suggest music for around 15/20 minutes beforehand
- At the arrival of the bride and the bridal party
- During the signing of the marriage document
- When the happy couple leave the church
- Hymns for everyone to sing together during the service

Music for singing

You may want to choose hymns for your guests to sing during the wedding ceremony, we would usually suggest three. Here are some possible hymns - your organist can play these for you to hear. We would usually suggest these are played on the organ and the choir could lead the singing of these.

Suggestions for hymns

- All things bright and beautiful
- Amazing Grace
- Be Still for the Presence of the Lord
- Give me Joy in my heart
- Great is thy faithfulness
- Jerusalem
- Lord of all Hopefulness
- Love Divine, all loves excelling
- Make me a channel of your peace
- Morning has broken
- Praise my soul, the king of heaven
- Tell out my soul
- The Lord's my shepherd
- We pledge to one another

Music to listen to

During the signing of the marriage document, we would suggest your guests have some music to listen to. This could be organ music, an anthem sung by our choir or a piece from a musical guest.

Some suggestions for choir anthems

- Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (Johann Sebastian Bach)
- Lead me, Lord (Samuel Sebastian Wesley)
- A Gaelic Blessing (John Rutter)
- The Lord's my Shepherd (John Rutter)

Some suggestions for instrumental music

- Bridal Chorus from Lohengrin, Wagner
- Trumpet Voluntary, (the Prince of Denmark's March), Jeremiah Clarke
- Trumpet Tune, Purcell
- Canon in D, Pachelbel
- Wedding March – Incidental Music No.9, Midsummer Night's Dream, Mendelssohn
- The Queen of Sheba, from 'Solomon' ('The arrival of the Queen of Sheba'), Handel
- Trumpet Tune in D, John Stanley
- Nun Danket (March Triomphale), Karg-Elert
- Prelude in Classic Style, Young
- Trumpet Tune, Charpentier

Contact details

When your wedding organist is confirmed, you will get their contact details to speak directly to them. You will need to confirm your music choices to them at least 1 month before the service. They will help you check that hymn words are correct before printing your service sheets - we can usually provide the hymn words for you to go in the service sheet.

Other helpful resources

The Church of England website "Your Church Wedding" has some helpful ideas with links to listen to the pieces of music.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/your-church-wedding/planning-your-ceremony>

Many of the hymns and pieces of music mentioned in this guide can be found on YouTube to listen to.