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Music for Weddings

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Information on Music for Weddings at the University of St Andrews Chapels

Live music will be an important part of your wedding service, so it is worth planning well in advance. Due to the high number of weddings in the university chapels, it is not possible to meet the organist in order to discuss the music for your wedding. This leaflet is designed to help you with the decision making process.

Organist

Your wedding fee includes the services of an Organist provided by the University. All arrangements for music at the service should be made through the University Organist.

Please ensure the Organist has all music choices no later than 6 weeks prior to your wedding.

Organ Music

The organ can provide music at the Entrance of the Bride, the Signing of the Schedule, and the Recessional; possible pieces are listed below. This list is not exhaustive, other ideas are welcome and the organist will always endeavor to provide the music that you would like. However, please note that not all music is playable on the organ. The organist will also play a selection of cheerful music as the guests arrive for your wedding.

Entrance of the Bride

The Prince of Denmark's March – Jeremiah Clarke
Trumpet Tune – Henry Purcell
Trumpet Voluntary – John Stanley
Bridal March *from* Lohengrin – Richard Wagner

Signing of the Schedule

Air *from* Orchestral Suite no. 3 – J.S. Bach
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring – J.S. Bach
Canon in D – Johann Pachelbel
The Swan – Camille Saint-Saëns

Andrew Macintosh
Deputy University Organist
ajrm@st-andrews.ac.uk

Step 1

Decide on your musical requirements, as listed below.

Organ music for the entrance of the bride

Opening hymn

Second hymn (if required)

Music for the signing of the schedule (organ OR choir)

Final hymn

Organ music for the recessional

Choir

Will the wedding be audio/video recorded?

We suggest that you begin thinking about this step at least three months before your wedding.

Step 2

Inform the minister in charge of your wedding of your musical requirements, in order to check that he/she is happy with them.

This should happen at least two months before your wedding.

Step 3

Once the minister has approved the music for your wedding, please immediately email the information to the Deputy University Organist, Andrew Macintosh, in order to check that he is happy with your choices.

This must happen no later than six weeks before your wedding. A longer timescale is required if a choir is being requested; please see the relevant section above.

Recessional

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba – George Frederic Handel

Hornpipe *from* Water Music – George Frederic Handel

Wedding March *from* A Midsummer Night's Dream – Felix

Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

Toccata *from* Symphony no. 5 – Charles-Marie Widor

Audio samples of these works recorded in St Salvator's Chapel, can be found at <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/community/weddings/organ-music/>

Hymns

It is normal to have either two or three hymns during a wedding ceremony. You may find it helpful to browse the following list of popular hymns. This list is not exhaustive, other ideas are welcome but please remember that the hymns need to be approved by the minister in charge of your wedding and the University Organist.

All people that on earth do dwell

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all Joy ©

As man and woman we are made ©

Lord of creation, giver of gladness ©

Bind us together, Lord ©

Love is the touch of intangible joy ©

Christ is made the sure foundation

Love Divine, all loves excelling

Come down, O Love Divine

Now thank we all our God

From all that dwell below the skies

O God the Bethel! by whose hand

Glorious things of thee are spoken

Glory be to God the Father

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation

O God of Love, to thee we bow ©

The grace of life is theirs ©

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want

How lovely is thy dwelling-place

Your love, O God, has called us here

Let's praise the Creator who gave us each other ©

We come, dear Lord, to celebrate ©

Choirs

It is possible to book a choir of around eight people to sing at your wedding. As well as leading the singing of the hymns, the choir can, if you wish, perform a piece during the signing of the schedule. **See the Price List*

Possible pieces for during the Signing of the Schedule:

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring – J.S. Bach
Panis Angelicus – Cesar Franck
A Gaelic Blessing - John Rutter
The Lord Bless You and Keep you - John Rutter
Exultate justi – Ludovico Viadana

The University Organist will always do his best to accommodate requests for choirs.

A wedding choir consists of up to eight singers. Singers are readily available during University semesters (approx. February-May and September-December – see details on the University website). At other times of year, it can be difficult to find singers, so please contact Andrew Macintosh in the first instance if the date of your wedding lies outside University semesters.

Bagpipes

You are welcome to arrange for a bagpiper to play outside the chapel at the beginning and the end of the service. However, please note that bagpipe music carries into the chapels, and so it may not be practical for both bagpipes and organ to play as guests arrive. In practice, the organist usually stops playing if the bagpipes are being heard too loudly inside the chapel.

Please note that we advise against bagpipes being played inside the chapel, because they sound uncomfortably loud in the chapel's reverberant acoustics.

Recorded Music

We advise against the use of recorded music, since we find that live music creates a much more celebratory atmosphere.

Instrumentalist & Soloists

You are welcome to provide your own instrumentalist / soloist to play during the ceremony. If they require a rehearsal in the Chapel and if you would like the University Organist to accompany them, this may incur an additional charge. The Organist is also happy to book solo instrumentalists, where possible. In all circumstances, please contact the University Organist well in advance. It is especially important that, if the Organist is required to accompany a soloist, the sheet music in the appropriate key is received not less than one month in advance.

Video / Audio Recording your wedding

If you wish to make a video / audio recording of your service, you must obtain the permission of the officiating minister and consult the organist / choir master.

Bell Ringing

St Salvator's Chapel has 6 bells. There is a possibility that these can be rung for your wedding, although it depends upon the availability of bell ringers.

If your wedding falls within University term-time bell ringers are fairly easy to obtain from the student population but during holiday periods this can be more difficult. The bell ringers are entitled to a fee, part of which goes towards the maintenance of the bells. If you would like the bells to be rung at your wedding please contact the Bell Ringing Society via email: bellringers@st-andrews.ac.uk Couples expecting their wedding to last longer than 45 minutes, must indicate this at the time of booking. Cancellation of bookings must be done in writing to the email address provided, noting the cancellation policy, page 5 of the Wedding Guidelines* *Please note there are no bells at St Leonard's Chapel*

* A link to the Price List and Wedding Guidelines document is available from the University Wedding webpage <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/community/weddings/>