Music for Weddings
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

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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/](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 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 from 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/