

Music & Readings – Parish of Farlington Weddings

Suggestions for Wedding Music - St Andrew's Weddings

1. Entrance music

Bridal March from "Lohengrin" (Here comes the bride)	- Wagner
"Trumpet Voluntary"	- Jeremiah Clarke
"Trumpet tune in D"	- Henry Purcell
March from the "Occasional Overture"	- Handel
"Alla Danza" from the "Water Music"	- Handel
"Entrance of the Queen of Sheba"	- Handel

Various other items are requested from time to time, including the wedding march from "The Gondoliers" and wedding music from "The Sound of Music". I am always open to suggestions, provided it's playable, and suitable!

2. Exit music

Wedding March from "Midsummer Night's Dream"	- Mendelssohn
"Alla Danza" from "Water Music"	- Handel
"Entrance of the Queen of Sheba"	- Handel

These three are better than most other choices, bearing in mind that Widor's "Toccata..." is *not* a viable option. However, I have used "La Rejouissance" from Handel's "Music for the Royal Fireworks", Hutchinson's March "Iter Vitae" (Journey of Life), and Da Costa's "Honour and Glory", the last two being nice bouncy nineteenth century tunes.

3. Registers

I can *ad lib* within the organ/organist's/choir's capabilities — preferably something fairly quiet to make a good contrast with the exit music. I usually default to the Romance from Mozart's "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik", or the choir may choose to sing something. If something beyond the usual repertoire is wanted, it is customary for the music to be provided well in advance.

Suggestions for Music - Church of the Resurrection Weddings

1. Entrance music

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba	Handel
Bridal March	Wagner
Coro from Water Music	Handel
Fanfare for a Bride	Rawsthorne
Finale (Royal Fireworks)	Handel
Hornpipe from Water Music	Handel
March (from Scipio)	Handel
Marche Nuptiale	Gounod
Processional (Royal Fireworks)	Handel
Promenade	Mussorgsky
St. Anthony Chorale	Haydn
Te Deum (Eurovision)	Charpentier
Trumpet tune	Henry Purcell
Trumpet Voluntary	Jeremiah Clarke

2. Exit music

Brideshead Revisited	
Crown Imperial	William Walton
Grand March from Aida	Verdi
Ode to Joy (Symphony 9)	Beethoven
Pomp and Circumstance 4	Edward Elgar
Procession of the Mastersingers	Wagner
Radetsky March	Johann Strauss
Te Deum	Charpentier (Eurovision Music)
Toccatina in D	J. S. Bach
Toccatina in F	Widor
Trumpet Tune	Henry Purcell
Trumpet Voluntary	Jeremiah Clarke
War March of the Priests	Mendelssohn
Wedding March	Mendelssohn

There are many more titles available. If anything is requested not on the above list, if I have a copy, no problem. If not, then couple must supply, giving me a few weeks to practice.

Suggestions for Hymns

Here are some suggestions for suitable hymns. The hymns are listed alphabetically in our hymn books and the hymn numbers in the books currently used in our two churches are shown below.

Title (first line)	St Andrews	Resurrection
A new commandment	35	4
Dear Lord and father of mankind	144	106
Gracious Spirit Holy Ghost	245	184
Jesus, stand among us	361	279
Lead us, Heavenly father, lead us	379	293
Lord, for the years	409	310
Lord of all hopefulness	413	313
Love divine, all loves excelling ("Blaenwern" is our preferred tune)	428	321
Love is his word	429	322
May the Grace of Christ	446	333
O perfect love	533	387
Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven	565	422
The King of Love my shepherd is	649	484
The Lord's my shepherd	654	490

Examples of Bible readings

Any suitable translation may be used

Song of Solomon 2.10-13; 8.6-7

My beloved speaks and says to me: 'Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away: for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth: the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs and the vines are in blossom: they give forth fragrance. Arise my love, my fair one and come away. Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm: for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If one offered for love all the wealth of one's house, it would be utterly scorned.

Romans 12.1,2,9-13

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Let love be genuine: hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good: love one another with mutual affection: outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body, so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind: love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end: as for tongues, they will cease: as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part and we prophesy only in part: but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three: and the greatest of these is love.

Ephesians 5.21-33

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Saviour. Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, so as to present the church to himself in splendour, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind – yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, because we are members of his body. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two

will become one flesh. This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church. Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband.

Colossians 3.12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other, just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful, let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

I John 4.7-12

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God: everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

Examples of non-biblical readings

The Art of Marriage

In a marriage, the little things are the big things.....
A good marriage must be created.
It is never being too old to hold hands.
It is remembering to say "I love you" at least once each day.
It is never going to sleep angry.
It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.
It is standing together and facing the world
It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.
It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.
It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.
It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.
It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.
It is not only marrying the right person, it is being the right partner.

Apache Wedding Blessing

Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be shelter for the other.
Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be warmth to the other.
Now there will be no loneliness, for each of you will be companion to the other.
Now you are two persons, but there is only one life before you.
May beauty surround you both in the journey ahead and through all the years.
May happiness be your companion and your days together be good and long upon the earth."
Treat yourselves and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together.
Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your connection deserves.
When frustration, difficulties and fear assail your relationship, as they threaten all relationships at one time or another, remember to focus on what is right between you, not only the part which seems wrong.
In this way, you can ride out the storms when clouds hide the face of the sun in your lives; remembering that even if you lose sight of it for a moment, the sun is still there.
And if each of you takes responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and delight.

'Marriage' from The Prophet by Kahlil Gibran

Then Almitra spoke again and said;
'And what of marriage, master?'
And he answered saying;
'You were born together, and together you shall be for evermore. You shall be together even in the silent memory of God. But let there be spaces in your togetherness. And let the winds of the heavens dance between you. Love one another, but make not a bond of love: let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls. Fill each other's cup but drink not from one cup.
Give one another of your bread but eat not from the same loaf. Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each one of you be alone, even as the strings of a lute are alone though they quiver with the same music. Give your hearts, but not into each other's keeping, for only the hand of Life can contain your hearts. And stand together yet not too near together: for the pillars of the temple stand apart, and the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other's shadow.'

I Ching

When two people are at one
in their inmost hearts,
they shatter even the strength of iron or bronze.
And when two people understand each other
in their inmost hearts,
their words are sweet and strong,
like the fragrance of orchids.

From 'A Gift From the Sea' by Anne Morrow Lindbergh

Love does not consist in gazing at each other. But in looking outward together in the same direction. For in fact, man and woman are not only looking outward in the same direction, they are working outward. Here one forms ties, roots, a firm base.... Here one makes oneself part of the community of men, of human society. Here the bonds of marriage are formed. For marriage, which is always spoken of as a bond, becomes actually, in this stage, many bonds, many strands, of different texture and strength, making up a web that is taut and firm. The web is fashioned of love. Yes, but many kinds of love: romantic love first, then a slow-growing devotion and, playing through these, a constantly rippling companionship. It is made of loyalties, and interdependencies, and shared experiences. It is woven of memories of meetings and conflicts; of triumphs and disappointments. It is a web of communication, a common language, and the acceptance of lack of language too, a knowledge of likes and dislikes, of habits and reactions, both physical and mental. It is a web of instincts and intuitions, and known and unknown exchanges. The web of marriage is made by proximity, in the day to day living side by side, looking outward and working outward in the same direction. It is woven in space and in time of the substance of life itself.

The above are offered only to prompt ideas if you have not already considered what readings you would like. You may choose any suitable reading, and you may find many examples in the various wedding planning publications as well as on the internet. One site that is very useful for planning your wedding service is - www.yourchurchwedding.org here you will find sample music and readings as well as lots of other guidance.