

Brian Clegg

The Ultimate Church Wedding Music Planner



*Making the
most of
church music
for your
wedding*

First published 2006

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1. What's it all about?

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS JUST THE SAMPLE VERSION, WITH A FEW PAGES TO GIVE AN IDEA OF THE CONTENTS

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, and a moving picture tells even more – yet what is it, when you're watching a movie, that brings a lump to your throat or starts the tears flowing? It's that sudden surge of dramatic music. We are hard wired to respond to music emotionally and nothing can make or break the atmosphere of a wedding more than the musical content.

This planner is to help you with make the hugely important decisions about what part music will play in your wedding. This guide is specifically for church weddings, or for weddings in other venues that use the elements of a church service, like hymns. Of course music is important for almost any kind of wedding, but that's what I will be concentrating on.

After some basic help on thinking about what type of music to choose we get to section 3, the plan. This is the heart of this guide. Here you can make a note of what you need to do and what you have managed. The following four sections give ideas on music to use at the different stages in the wedding process. Chances are you will want to read these, then come back to the plan section. Finally, at the end, there is some advice on orders of service and the words of a range of well-known wedding hymns that can be freely copied.

That's the "what's it all about?" for this planner – but there's another "what's it all about?" to be considered, and that's your wedding. It should be about *you* – the couple who are getting married. So the first, and most important, consideration when choosing music is that it should be music you are comfortable with. Music you like. What's the point of choosing something because it's "what everyone does" or "what my parents want", if you don't like it?

I can't tell you what you like, so it might seem that once I've said the music should be what you like there's nothing else to do – but it's not quite that simple. If you want your wedding to be perfect, you do have to consider what goes well with the venue and the form of service you want to have. And what works with the people involved. It's fine to have your favourite heavy metal anthem (or whatever) playing in the background at a reception, but it might not work in a church – and your friends and relations probably won't want to sing along with Def Leppard. The aim of this planner is to make it your

event great, but to make it work – and as we’re talking about a church wedding, or a wedding elsewhere using church music, this does require a little more thought than just “I want my favourite tracks played.”

But that doesn’t mean it has to be dull, or that you just have to go along with everything someone else tells you. Making it the best wedding you can involves finding the ideal mix of music that you are comfortable with and that will work in the location and with the resources you have available.

So let’s get planning...

9. Appendix – the order of service

An example from the hymn words section:

All Creatures of Our God and King

1. All creatures of our god and king,
Lift up your voice and with us sing:
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam:
*O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

2. Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise Him, alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice:

3. Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That givest man both warmth and light:

* 4. Dear mother earth, who day by day
Unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise him, alleluia!
The flowers and fruit that in thee grow,
Let them his glory also show:

5. And all ye men of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye, alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on Him cast your care:

6. Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three-in-One: