

# **Holy Trinity Church**

## **Northwood**

### **Music Guide for Wedding Parties**

Dear Bride and Groom,

Below I've set out some general advice about music for weddings at Holy Trinity. This information should cover most of the topics that wedding couples usually have questions about: the availability of the choir, the organ and its repertoire and the use of musicians hired in by the wedding party without the involvement of the church. It is worth noting here that visiting organists using the organ will need to complete a form available from the Parish Office, or downloadable from the website.

If there is something you have concerns about that is not covered here, or a specific request, I'm always happy to discuss it and please don't hesitate to get in touch.

#### **THE CHOIR**

You can request to have the church choir sing at your wedding. They are a mixed voice (male and female) choir of adults and children. If you would like them to be present, I will need to know at least four weeks in advance of the date of your wedding to allow for the choir members to plan their diaries. Once you have asked me, I will then ask the choir members to sign up to sing if they are available for that particular date. Generally speaking, we are able to muster enough singers. However, on some occasions, it may not be possible if there are not sufficient members of the choir available. It is also worth noting that the choir takes a month's vacation in August, so it is highly unlikely we can supply a choir then. I will be happy to discuss alternatives and make suggestions for August wedding parties, but I cannot personally undertake to make any of the arrangements with external groups, and any costs incurred in making these arrangements are at the wedding party's expense.

If you decide to have the choir sing at your wedding, it is a good idea to make as much use of them as possible by asking them to sing a piece at some point during the service, rather than asking them just to join in with the hymns, although this is perfectly legitimate if you specifically wish.

#### **Music & Repertoire**

If you would like the choir to sing, I strongly recommend you choose one from the following list:

<b>Piece</b>	<b>Composer</b>
<b>Panis Angelicus</b>	Franck
<b>Ave Verum Corpus</b>	Mozart
<b>Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring</b>	J.S. Bach
<b>View Me Lord</b>	Richard Lloyd

These pieces are readily performable with a limited number of singers. They are traditional favourites, and add a nice touch to the service. You will easily be able to listen to them all on Itunes or Spotify (or similar websites).

If you are unsatisfied with the selection of pieces in the list, I will be happy to discuss an alternative with you. Should you have a particular piece in mind, please also discuss this with me and we will see what arrangement we can come to.

## **THE ORGAN**

The organ at Holy Trinity has a wide range of warm colours and is effective at accompanying services. It is worth remembering that it does not have the size or scope of the organ in Westminster Abbey, therefore choices of music should be made accordingly. The first thing to check when choosing organ music for your service is that the piece you have chosen is an organ piece. For example, if the piece in question is Handel's Music to the Royal Fireworks, or Tchaikowski's 1812 Overture, these are orchestral pieces and a good recording played through the church sound system will do them more justice than a weak organ transcription.

It is most likely that I will be playing the organ for your wedding; I have a reasonably large repertoire of pieces ranging from Bach to modern French and English organ music. Below I have printed a list of some of the pieces I play which I consider most suitable for weddings. I have also added a comment about the possible use of the piece in the context of the service and general tone. You will be able to find these on Itunes and Spotify to listen to at your convenience:

### **Processional (Wedding March)**

- 1) Wedding March from Lohengrin - by R. Wagner. This is the very traditional wedding march, commonly known as 'Here Come the Bride...'
- 2) Trumpet Voluntary in D/Prince of Denmark's March - by J. Clarke. This is also a very well known, traditional piece. It can be used for the bride to process in to church to at the start of the service, or at the end of the service as the wedding party recess out.
- 3) Canon in D - by J. Pachelbel. This is also a very well known and popular classic. It's a bit more unusual as a processional, but is rapidly gaining popularity.

### **Recessional (as the wedding party leave at the end of the service)**

- 1) Trumpet Voluntary in D/Prince of Denmark's March - by J. Clarke. Please see note above.
- 2) Wedding March from a Midsummer Night's Dream - by F. Mendelssohn. This is the most traditional piece to end the service, and will be widely recognised by your congregation.
- 3) Toccata in F - by C-M. Widor. This is also a very well-known show piece. Popularised by a royal wedding a few decades ago, it is commonly heard at churches around the country.
- 4) Fantazia in G Major - by J.S. Bach. This is pleasing and playful piece which has a grandiose tone. This piece is not particularly associated with weddings, but can be very effective and is a little break from the very conventional.
- 5) Crown Imperial - by W. Walton. This is a pleasant and suitable grandiose march, and although it is not particularly traditionally associated with weddings, it is very well known and effective.
- 6) Sortie in Eb - C. Lefebure-Wely. This is an extremely exuberant and fun piece. Although I have played it at some weddings before and is growing in popularity, it is still a relatively unusual piece, and also represents a break from the age-old traditional favourites listed above.

If you are unsatisfied with choice of pieces above, or there is a particular favourite you would like, please discuss it with me – it may be something I play or have time to learn. Other more 'outrageous' pieces (including things like TV theme tunes) need to be discussed with me and an agreement reached.

## **EXTERNAL MUSICIANS**

I am quite happy for you to bring external musicians into church, although if required, I am happy to accompany singers or instrumentalists on the piano.

I am also happy to welcome a band or instrumental ensemble of your choice to accompany the service instead of the organ. However, it will not possible to have the choir in combination with such a group. They must also leave all music equipment in church exactly as they find it. The cost of repairing any damage done by contracted musicians will have to be passed on to the wedding party concerned.

If you wish to bring your own organist, please note that there will be a charge for the use of the organ. The organist in question will also need to fill in a form which can be downloaded from the church website and approved by myself to use to organ.

Please note that no contracted musicians may direct the choir or use the choir vestry facilities.

## **QUESTION & REQUESTS**

Please speak to me at any time if you have any questions regarding music for your wedding. You can speak to me at any Sunday service if you come up to the organ console at the end. You can email me at [music@htnorthwood.co.uk](mailto:music@htnorthwood.co.uk) or you can phone me on 07817 562 098.

With best wishes for your preparations,

Richard Bates (Director of Music, Holy Trinity Church, Northwood)