

# Music for a Wedding Service at the Good Shepherd Church

Congratulations to you both on your forthcoming marriage and also for your choice of celebrating this wonderful sacrament together in God's presence within this splendid church. It is therefore appropriate that we all take part in this celebration with music which raises the minds and hearts of everyone to the solemnity and beauty of a unique event where two people pledge themselves and their lives to each other, before Almighty God.

**With this in mind, here are some facts, observations and suggestions.**

- The church has a splendid pipe organ (Walker 1964, 23 stops) which fills the building with a wonderful sound ranging from the softest murmur to a full-blooded roar. It is serviced and tuned, at significant expense, three times in a year. It is therefore a great shame not to make full use of this instrument in a ceremony.
- We are most fortunate in having the services of four very skilled organists (who all enjoy playing this particular instrument). Between them, they have an exceedingly wide repertoire of organ music to suit any occasion and taste. To some extent, the music you choose will determine the organist for your event.
- The current (2019) fee for your organist is £110 which is to be paid directly to the organist in advance of the day. For this fee, your organist will
  - choose and play music as your guests gather in the church and as they leave
  - play liturgical and incidental music for the actual ceremony as well as music during the signing of the register
  - play ceremonial music for the entrance of the bride and exit of the married couple
  - be available for telephone consultation before the event
- Associated with this document is a list of suggested ceremonial music\*\* (with YouTube links so that you can listen to the pieces if you do not already know them) together with some suggestions of hymns appropriate to the occasion\*\* and which may be sung by a somewhat 'reluctant to sing' congregation. Your organist will help you with choices if you need assistance. The documents can be obtained by using the email address\*\* below.
- On request, we may be able to engage the services of a professional solo singer (for an additional fee) who will provide liturgical / sacred music, appropriate to the event. The Church Choir has in the past sung for Weddings, again for an additional fee.

**We ask you to take particular note of the following points.**

- ⊗ The building has an extremely resonant acoustic (the echo lasts about 6 seconds). Without really sophisticated sound equipment, it is totally unsuitable for recorded music as this tends to get 'lost' and confused. The church P.A. system cannot be used for this purpose.
- ⊗ The church is primarily for the worship of God and in that context, the music must reflect this. Commercial Ballads and Love Songs are not appropriate to this ceremony and should be reserved for the Reception and Celebrations afterwards.

For any enquiries concerning the above, including engaging an organist, please contact:

\*\* Michael Bussey via the church or through busseys@ntlworld.com

