

# A Few Thoughts on Wedding Music

(please feel free to download or print)

Without doubt, Music can contribute enormously to the atmosphere during every aspect of your wedding day. Not just the music itself, but also the visual aspect adding a real sense of occasion and helping make your day even more memorable.

Choosing the music for your big day can often seem a daunting task! After all, there are so many other things to do, and you don't know anything about music – *right? Wrong!!* You probably know what you like and what you don't like! That's enough! It's simply necessary to find the musicians who can ***listen to you*** and then employ their expertise in turning '*what you like*' into a reality on the day.

At '**Eugene Farrar Music**' we use our vast experience to take away the pressure, but still leave you in control. After all, it's your day. We have put together a few hints below, to consider when thinking about music for your wedding day.

## The Ceremony:

***Religious or Civil?*** This is perhaps the most important initial question. The law currently states that music within a Civil Ceremony must be '***Non-Religious***'. This is often given varied interpretations among different registrars. If you are in any doubt as to your preferred choices we advise you to contact the ***General Register Office on 0151 4714803*** We are happy to do this on your behalf, should you chose to engage our services for your wedding ceremony. Similarly, different denominations and churches may also place restrictions upon choices of non-religious music within their ceremonies and we recommend that you clarify any secular music choices with the minister of the church at which you intend to marry.

Aside from content, the musical formats of religious and civil ceremonies are largely similar. Although within a civil ceremony, there is perhaps more option to make the musical contribution more or less formal, to meet your exact preferences. It is usually effective however to try and match the music to the general mood of each aspect of the ceremony.

## Pre- Ceremony Music

A String Quartet, Solo Singer (with or without backing) Wedding Piper, Pianist, Classical Guitarist, Harpist or a Brass Quintet are a good choice for music during the arrival of guests. Perhaps a selection of light-classical music or popular romantic ballads. There is nothing however to prevent you departing from convention if you wish, the choice is yours!

## Processional/ Entry

Any of the formats above would work for processional music, Perhaps deploying a more rousing theme, clearly signalling your arrival for the ceremony. More upbeat perhaps, even a Jazz Band!

Once again, the choice is yours!

### **Signing of the register**

This is a good opportunity for your selected musicians to perform music special to you. The mood here tends to be gentle and relaxed, photos are being taken, and music can really make this part of the ceremony special.

### **Recessional/ Exit**

For most couples, the choice here is for some quite triumphal music, indicating the great joy of leaving the ceremony together! Its a great opportunity for a favourite pop song, an energetic classical piece. Many couples have chosen a Jazz Band to play for the exit from the ceremony, then neatly drop into providing the drinks reception entertainment!

### **Hymns**

If you have opted for a religious ceremony (*please see note above regarding music choices at civil ceremonies*) your choices of hymns will clearly depend upon religion, denomination and personal taste. The key however, is to try and choose hymns that have meaning to you both but are also likely to be fairly well known to your guests. This will enable them to join in the singing and become more involved in the celebration of your marriage. Your religious minister will be able to advise on this.

### **Drinks Reception/ Photographs**

Background music at this point can often proves to be a great '*ice-breaker*'! Some people may be meeting for the first time, background music of a relatively informal nature can really help establish a relaxed atmosphere. Avoid anything that is too loud or likely to interfere too much with conversation and the photography. Ideal choices would be a Cocktail Pianist, Classical guitarist, String Quartet, Brass Quintet, or a Small Jazz Group, playing a selection of varied, informal and well known music. Additionally, the visual aspect of the musicians can contribute effectively to photo opportunities, should you wish.

### **Wedding Breakfast/ Meal**

As with every aspect of your wedding music, the choice here is clearly yours as a couple. We have found that for a small venue with a small number of guests who know each other well, live music is often unnecessary. In larger venues however, with more guests, background music through a meal can help create a more intimate atmosphere and can once again be a good '*ice-breaker*'. Clearly the music needs to be at a volume which does not hinder conversation but merely adds to the mood. A Pianist, Small Jazz/Swing group, Harpist or Guitarist would all be ideal for this part of your day.

### **Evening Reception**

For many couples this is where the music makes it's biggest contribution. All couples want this to be the party of all parties, rightly so! You want everybody to have an enjoyable and memorable evening! There are likely to be guests of various ages and tastes, so the key here is ***variety!***

It's still your day, so you should feel free to include a few special requests, especially for that **first dance!** In addition to these, a selection of Swing, Jazz, Soul, Rock and Roll and some classic and recent pop songs is usually an unbeatable mix. A few romantic ballads and some real **dance floor-fillers!**

If you do decide to go for a specific musical theme, **Rat-pack, Blues Brothers or Swing** for example, then it is often advisable to engage a DJ in addition, to create some variety. A good band will be happy to work alongside a DJ and should liaise effectively to give you an evening of quality seamless entertainment.

### **General points**

Most of the above relates to choice of music/ musicians. There are however a number of other important factors to consider in making your choice.

The majority of venues require all artistes and entertainers to carry **Public Liability Insurance** (usually up to £5 million) and for any electrical to have a valid **Portable Appliance Test** (PAT) certificate. Be sure to check that your chosen musicians meet these requirements. Any reputable artist/supplier will be able to provide the relevant documentation. As a policy, **'Eugene Farrar Music'** supplies this directly to your chosen venue immediately upon confirmation of your booking.

Some couples choose to use the same supplier for all their music needs on the day. Whilst this offers distinct advantages, it is not always possible. Speak to any potential artists. Are they happy and comfortable working alongside other artists/performers? A frequent example is a band working alongside a DJ. Are they happy to do this? The last thing you need is a clash of ego's detracting from your day! At **Eugene Farrar Music** We regularly work alongside DJ's. We always liaise fully to provide you with a memorable evening! We are happy to recommend DJs which frankly are a **'cut- above'** and highly experienced in working alongside live musicians!

Finally, your wedding is a massive day for you! There are many things to plan. You really need the professionals you chose to engage, to be personable, helpful and creative. If somebody takes weeks to return your calls or emails, this can make things stressful. **Eugene Farrar Music** is committed to assisting you in any matter relating to your booking and to maintaining effective channels of communication from the day you first enquire, right until the very last note has been played! We are only a phone call or an email away!

***We take great pride in the services we provide and hope that we are given the opportunity to make your day a memorable one. If however you choose to engage the services of other entertainers, we sincerely wish you every success and hope that the hints above have been of some use to you.***

***We have many years experience in providing music and entertainment for weddings and all manner of other Social and Corporate events events. That***

***said, each event is different, personal to you the customer. We are always grateful to hear about the experiences of others! It's a great way of learning and can only serve to improve things for us all! So please feel free to contact us at [info@eugene-farrar-music.co.uk](mailto:info@eugene-farrar-music.co.uk) or on 0800 1300468 with any suggestions!***