

SAMPLE FUNERAL MUSIC



Robyn Ratcliff – Funeral Celebrant

Phone: 0417 677903

www.centralcoastfuneralcelebrant.com.au

FUNERAL MUSIC

“Music is a language that doesn’t speak in particular words. It speaks in emotions, and if it’s in the bones, it’s in the bones.” – Keith Richards.

Music can be, one of the most important and beautiful parts of the whole ceremony. When you leave that ceremony, you may not remember everything that was said, but you will remember the music that was played and the emotion that you felt when listening to the music.

There are many opportunities to use music throughout the ceremony and the following are some of the times I recommend that the family utilise some music that they have chosen, or perhaps the person who has died has already chosen for them:

1. *Opening the ceremony Prelude Music*– this just gives everyone an opportunity to “land”. There is often a lot of emotion and energy exhausted in simply getting there on the day, so it can be nice to just let people sit for a moment and listen to a piece of music as people are coming in This is optional
2. *Processional In* – Played as the coffin is coming in or as Entrance music
3. *Quiet Reflection* –Having a time for quiet reflection during the ceremony. This is a chance to put on a piece of music and just journey inwards. There’s nobody speaking, it’s just the music and your memories and a beautiful chance for you to say your own quiet goodbye.
4. *Photographic Slideshow Tribute* – if you are putting together a photographic slideshow tribute, then usually you will include one or two songs to play as backing music for this.
5. *Laying of Petals/Flowers* – this section of the ceremony usually comes towards the end and is a chance for people to come forward and lay petals or flowers on the coffin and say their final goodbyes. The number of people attending the funeral will determine how many songs you think you may need for this section.
6. *Closing the Ceremony* – this is the final piece of music that is played either as the coffin is being carried out or as guests are asked to stand and leave the chapel or ceremony space.

If you’re not sure what sort of music the person liked, maybe check out their CD collection, or their playlist on their phone. Alternatively, think about the

sort of music that you would like to hear, because at the end of the day, the music and the ceremony is for you.

Choosing the right music and songs for your loved one's funeral will personalise the service and truly pay tribute to their life in a lasting way. We have created a list of the most popular funeral songs to help you decide what music to play at a funeral; from classical funeral music to modern day pop songs.

When arranging a funeral, you have full control over what music you'd like to play. You may prefer uplifting and happy funeral songs, or maybe some classical funeral music.

As funerals become more tailored to reflect the life of the person who has sadly passed away, families are opting for modern songs to be played at the service.

TIP : Search Funeral Music on Spotify

HERE ARE SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR FUNERAL SONGS:

BUT REMEMBER..IT'S YOUR CHOICE!

- My Way – Frank Sinatra
- Angels – Robbie Williams
- The Best – Tina Turner
- Wind Beneath My Wings – Bette Midler
- Always Look on the Bright Side of Life – Eric Idle (Monty Python's 'Life of Brian')
- Time to Say Goodbye – Sarah Brightman and Andrea Bocelli
- You'll Never Walk Alone – Gerry and the Pacemakers
- How Do I say Goodbye – Dean Lewis

CLASSICAL FUNERAL MUSIC

Classical music remains a popular choice for funerals, setting the stage for an emotional and moving service. Many people opt for light classical music for funerals, whilst others may prefer a more dramatic piece which reflects the personality of their loved one.

SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR CLASSICAL MUSIC FOR FUNERALS INCLUDE:

- Canon in D – Paachelbel
- Nimrod from Enigma Variations – Elgar
- The Four Seasons – Vivaldi
- Ave Maria – Schubert
- Pie Jesu – Fauré
- Adagio – Albinoni
- Air on a G String – Bach

MODERN FUNERAL SONGS

Your loved one's funeral song can be anything of your choice, it doesn't necessarily have to be a popular or classic song. The funeral music should reflect the way they lived their life or a song that may have been special to them. Here are a few modern funeral songs that you may want to consider.

SOME OF THE MOST MODERN SONGS FOR FUNERALS INCLUDE:

- Halo – Beyonce
- Wonderwall – Oasis
- Someone like you – Adele
- When September Ends – Green Day
- I'll Be Missing You – Puff Daddy & Faith Evans
- Someone You Loved – Lewis Capaldi
- Lay Me Down – Sam Smith
- How Do I say Goodbye – Dean Lewis

FUNERAL SONGS FOR MUM

When arranging a funeral for your mother, you will have the choice of the funeral songs or music that will be played during the service. Here's a list of funeral songs, which are fitting when saying goodbye to a loving mother.

POPULAR SONGS FOR A MOTHER'S FUNERAL INCLUDE:

- In the Arms of an Angel - Sarah McLachlan
- You're My Best Friend - Queen
- Supermarket flowers – Ed Sheeran
- Goodbye's the Saddest Word – Celine Dion
- Mama – Il Divo
- Don't Forget to Remember Me – Carrie Underwood
- I'll Always Love My Mamma – The Intruders
- In My Life – The Beatles
- Momma, I'm Coming Home – Ozzy Osbourne
- Unforgettable – Nat King Cole

FUNERAL SONGS FOR DAD

When organising a funeral for your father, there are several things you need to consider. One of those is the choice of funeral songs; it could be his favourite song, or something a bit more comforting. We have compiled a list of funeral songs that are appropriate for the funeral of a father.

POPULAR SONGS FOR A FATHER'S FUNERAL INCLUDE:

- You Raise Me Up – Josh Groban
- Dance With My Father – Luther Vandross
- The Living years – Mike & The Mechanics
- My Father's Eyes – Eric Clapton
- Sometimes You Can't Make It on Your Own – U2
- Hero – Mariah Carey
- Fathers and Daughters – Michael Bolton
- Song for Dad – Keith Urban
- Thank You for Being Dad – Jon Barker

FUNERAL SONGS FOR NAN

When picking funeral music for your grandma's funeral, you should consider picking their favourite song or the song that reminds you of them. The most important thing is that it's special to you, her and the rest of the family. We've put together a list of funeral songs that are suitable for your nan's funeral.

POPULAR SONGS FOR A GRANDMA'S FUNERAL INCLUDE:

- Nan's Song – Robbie Williams
- Grandma's Song – Gail Davies
- Grandma's Feather Bed – John Denver
- Smile – Nat King Cole
- Amazing Grace – John Newton
- Grandma's Hands – Bill Withers

FUNERAL SONGS FOR GRANDAD

When thinking about a funeral song for your grandad, you should think about his favourites or songs that remind you and friends and family of him. We have created a list of funeral songs to help you choose or to give you ideas.

POPULAR SONGS FOR A GRANDAD'S FUNERAL INCLUDE:

- Heaven Was Needing a Hero – Jo Dee Messina
- Fix You – Coldplay
- Grandpa – Justin Moore
- What a Wonderful World – Louis Armstrong

UPLIFTING SONGS TO PLAY AT A FUNERAL

Many people have traditionally believed a funeral should be a serious and sombre occasion. Now, more and more people are breaking the mould by opting for a funeral service that is a celebration of their loved one's life. For those ceremonies, uplifting funeral songs can help bring comfort to family and friends, and may even raise a smile.

EXAMPLES OF HAPPY AND UPLIFTING SONGS TO PLAY AT A FUNERAL INCLUDE:

- Three Little Birds – Bob Marley and the Wailers
- Somewhere Over The Rainbow - Israel Kamakawiwo'ole
- What a Wonderful World – Louis Armstrong
- Spirit in the Sky – Norman Greenbaum
- See You Again – Wiz Khalifa
- Ain't No Mountain High Enough – Marvin Gaye
- Don't Worry, Be Happy – Bobby McFerrin

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING FUNERAL MUSIC

Almost any piece of music can be played at the funeral as long as copyright restrictions do not apply. Commonly, people choose hymns for funerals or play a CD of a favourite song or piece of classical music.

Many crematoria have a full digital music library available to choose from. Please contact your local Funeral Director to discuss your wishes or preferences.

It is also advisable to speak to whomever is leading the ceremony when you are creating a funeral order of service.

Our experts will give you all the support and advice you to make necessary funeral music arrangements. Whether it's sourcing funeral music or assembling a choir, we will help you every step of the way.

If you've got a particular song or piece of music in mind that you'd like to discuss in more detail, please get in touch with your local Funeral Director today.

Funeral hymns are an important part of a Christian funeral service in the as they can help bring the congregation together and bring comfort to those in attendance.

Hymns are traditional across many different denominations of Christianity and just like other types of music; they can be happy, sad or inspirational.

POPULAR FUNERAL HYMNS

Traditional hymns can provide a fitting tribute to your loved one, especially if they followed Christianity. If you don't have strong religious views and are little unsure which hymns are suitable for a funeral, the following suggestions will help you find the right songs for your loved one's funeral.

Here are seven of the most popular hymns for funerals:

1. 1. JERUSALEM

*And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountain green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?*

Jerusalem is based on a poem by William Blake, written in 1804. Often chosen for weddings as well as funerals, it remains one of the most popular hymns for any Christian occasion.

1. 2. THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD (PSALM 23)

*The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.*

Based on Psalm 23, The Lord's My Shepherd is a well-known comforting hymn which is extremely popular at Christian funeral services.

1. 3. ABIDE WITH ME

*Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

Abide With Me is a Victorian hymn, written by Henry Francis Lyte in 1847. The hymn is a prayer to God, asking him for comfort in dark times.

1. 4. AMAZING GRACE

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.*

Amazing Grace is a very moving hymn and can be accompanied by bagpipes at funeral services. The lyrics focus on finding peace in death which is why it is a popular choice for a loved one's funeral.

1. 5. HOW GREAT THOU ART

*O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed*

Based on a 19th century Swedish song and poem, How Great Thou Art is about the beauty of nature. Many people choose it for a funeral service as the lyrics help put things into perspective during such a difficult time.

1. 6. THE OLD RUGGED CROSS

*And I'll cherish the old rugged cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
And I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown*

The Old Rugged Cross is a popular hymn written in 1912 by George Bennard. It is about being dedicated to Christ and serving God.

1. 7. LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS

*Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares can destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.*

Commonly set to the melody of an Irish folksong, Lord of All Hopefulness is a popular hymn for both funerals and weddings.

UPLIFTING HYMNS FOR FUNERALS

Many people believe a funeral should be a serious and sombre occasion, though in recent years, more and more people are beginning to break the mould by opting for a celebration of life. We have listed some uplifting hymns which will help bring comfort to those attending the funeral service.

Happy and uplifting hymns for a funeral include:

- All Things Bright and Beautiful
- Morning Has Broken
- Lord of the Dance
- Shine Jesus Shine
- Great is Thy Faithfulness

HOW MANY HYMNS ARE SUNG AT A FUNERAL?

Traditionally, at least two hymns are sung at a Christian funeral service, though you may wish to choose more. There is typically an opening hymn and a closing hymn but it is best to speak to whomever is leading the ceremony before the day of the funeral and when you are creating a funeral order of service.