

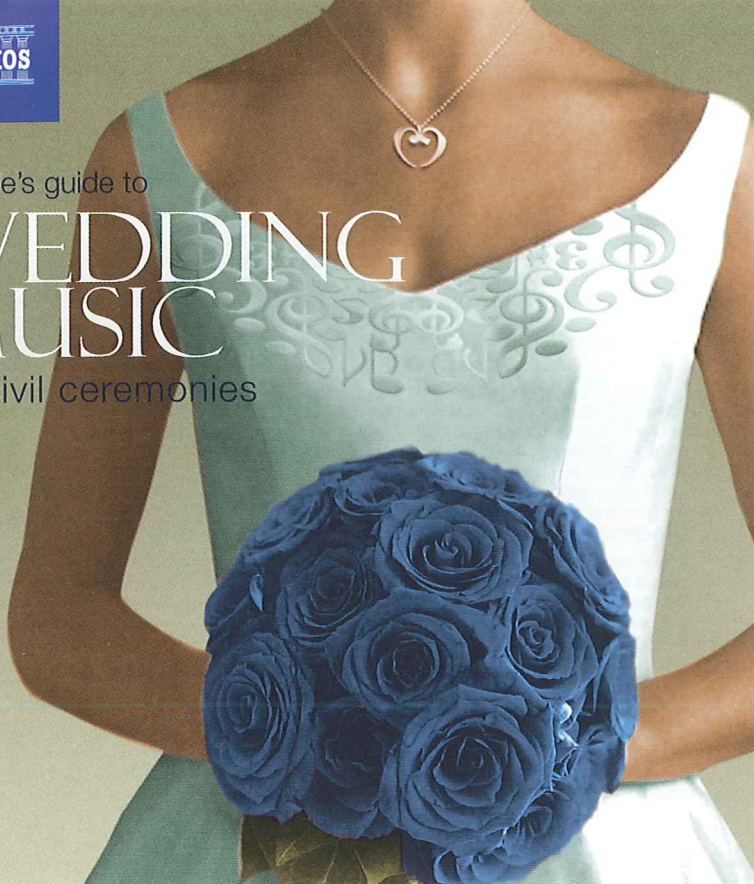
The Naxos logo is located in the top left corner. It consists of the word "NAXOS" in a white, bold, serif font, centered within a blue square. Above the text are stylized white lines representing a classical building facade.

NAXOS

A bride's guide to

WEDDING MUSIC

for civil ceremonies



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INTRODUCTION

Choosing the music for your wedding day can be a daunting task. There are so many choices and so many questions to ask. Where do you start? Should you go for your own particular favourites? Should you satisfy as many guests as possible and choose the expected traditional tunes? Should you try something new? This 2 CD set covers a wide range of music, all traditional wedding favourites, but chosen especially for civil ceremonies where music must be non-religious. The booklet notes aim to guide you through the decision making process, so that choosing the music for your big day is as easy as possible.

Choice of music often depends on the venue and style of your special day. If you have chosen a particular theme, it makes sense to tailor the music to that theme. Choice of music will also be affected by budget restrictions. The selection of music on these CDs often shows the pieces in arrangements which highlight their full grandeur. Although it is often not practical or cost effective to hire a whole orchestra for a wedding, rest assured that several arrangements exist of most of these pieces in versions for a single instrument, a single voice or a small group of instruments like a string quartet. If you decide to hire musicians, they will just need to know the composer and name of the piece you wish to have performed. They are likely to be able to find an arrangement that they can reproduce for their combination of instruments or voices.

When considering live music versus recorded music, the cheapest option is to organise a CD sound system. However, if you can hire a piano or keyboard player or an organist (or persuade a musical friend to play) you will really feel the difference that live music brings to the occasion. Other feasible live music options include hiring a choir or a string quartet or indeed a single instrumentalist – perhaps a flautist or a violinist or a harpist or a singer. It is also quite important to remember to consider the available space for musicians at your chosen venue. For example, if your venue can only accommodate a single singer rather than a whole choir, your choice of music should reflect this.

The music on these two CDs has been selected with four key stages of a traditional wedding in mind. CD 1 focuses on music for the entry of the bride and music for the exit of the happy couple. CD 2 is a selection of music which is suitable to set the scene before the entry of the bride or for the period of time during the signing of the register.

CD 1

A SELECTION OF MUSIC FOR THE ENTRY OF THE BRIDE, AND FOR THE EXIT OF THE BRIDE AND GROOM

♥ JOHANN PACHELBEL (1653-1706)

(1) Canon in D (from *Naxos 8.550104*)

(04:47)

An organist himself, Pachelbel wrote an impressive amount of organ music, and is one of the greatest organist-composers to this day. His lilting *Canon in D* is a brief piece by comparison with his big sacred works, but its charming grace has made it a great favourite for wedding ceremonies.

♥ RICHARD WAGNER (1813-1883)

(2) Bridal Chorus from *Lohengrin* (from *Naxos 8.550790*)

(02:13)

Of all the classical music used for weddings, this melody, with its many different arrangements, is one of the most frequently played. Taken from Wagner's opera *Lohengrin* the piece celebrates the marriage between the title character and the radiant bride Elsa. Known to most as 'Here comes the bride', it is a stirring entry piece, deserving of its popularity.

♥ JEREMIAH CLARKE (c. 1674-1707)

(3) Trumpet Voluntary (from *Naxos 8.550790*)

(02:33)

The English composer Jeremiah Clarke belongs to the generation following that of Henry Purcell. He wrote a quantity of music for the church, and songs and incidental music for the theatre, as well as various instrumental pieces. Jeremiah Clarke's best known composition is this magnificent *Trumpet Voluntary*, once attributed to Purcell. It forms part of a suite for wind instruments with the original title of 'The Prince of Denmark's March'. It creates a mood of solemnity and splendour, ideal for the start of a wedding ceremony.

♥ GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL (1685-1759)

- (4) *Royal Fireworks Music: Overture (from Naxos 8.557764)* (07:13)
- (6) *Le Réjouissance (from Naxos 8.557764)* (03:07)
- (7) *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba (from Naxos 8.556665)* (03:29)

Handel was very much in favour with the British royal court, and King George I often asked him to compose pieces for special occasions. The *Royal Fireworks Music* was commissioned to celebrate the Treaty of Aachen in 1748. The public was invited to a grand celebration in Green Park, where fireworks of unsurpassed magnificence had been promised. Unfortunately rain ruined all but a fraction of the fireworks, and in the fiasco the scaffolding itself caught fire. However the *Royal Fireworks Music* won the heart of the public, with its brilliant mixture of suave strings and martial brass. It is popular to this day for occasions of great importance, hence its suitability as part of a wedding programme. The tumbling strings that open the *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba* are extremely familiar, though they come from an unfamiliar work, the oratorio *Solomon*. Perhaps Handel's most sumptuous work, *Solomon* was premiered in London in the midst of the celebrations following the end of the War of the Austrian Succession. It is full of pageantry, ceremony and the very type of exuberance associated with weddings.

♥ MODEST MUSSORGSKY (1839-1881)

- (5) *Promenade (from Naxos 8.550051)* (02:00)

Mussorgsky's famous work *Pictures at an Exhibition* commemorates an exhibition of the work of the artist Victor Hartmann. Mussorgsky paints a delightful musical picture of each of the exhibits and links them by the distinctive *Promenade*. It is a stately movement, worthy of any procession.

♥ J.S. BACH (1685-1750)

- (8) *Badinerie (from Naxos 8.554609)* (01:25)

Johann Sebastian Bach is now regarded as one of the greatest composers of all time. He wrote a very large amount of choral music, as well as a large amount of orchestral and instrumental music. His four *Orchestral Suites* include the famous *Air on the G string* (CD2, track 1) and the bubbly *Badinerie*.

♡ ANTONIO VIVALDI (1678-1741)

(9) The Four Seasons: Spring – Allegro (from Naxos 8.550056)

(03:35)

Music representing the moods of the four seasons has always been popular, but no composer has evoked the pictorial detail of the seasons in such a timelessly memorable way as Antonio Vivaldi. The first concerto from *The Four Seasons*, 'Spring' opens with the cheerful song of the birds, followed by the gentle murmur of streams fanned by the breeze. This is a piece that is guaranteed to enhance the elated mood of your guests as your wedding service draws to a close. The *Largo* from 'Winter' (CD 2, track 3) offers the shelter of warmth by a fireside while the rain falls outside. It is an ideal choice for a winter wedding. Of course, the other three seasons are equally evocative and memorable for a seasonal feel to your wedding. [If you would like to hear the whole of Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, then try 8.550056].

♡ HENRY PURCELL (1659-1695)

(10) Trumpet Tune (from Naxos 8.550790)

(01:24)

Henry Purcell was one of the greatest English composers, and spent much of his short life in the service of the Chapel Royal as a composer, organist and singer. With considerable gifts as a composer, he wrote extensively for the stage, for the church and for popular entertainment. This *Trumpet Tune* is taken from his 'semi-opera' *The Indian Queen* based on the play by John Dryden and Robert Howard. It is a triumphant piece, with an air of regal formality.

♡ WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART (1756-1791)

(11) The Marriage of Figaro: Overture (from Naxos 8.554172)

(04:19)

(17) Eine kleine Nachtmusik: Allegro (from Naxos 8.557023)

(06:07)

Mozart was a wonderful operatic composer. The greater stage works belong to the last decade of his life. In Vienna, success came with *Le nozze di Figaro* (The Marriage of Figaro), an Italian comic opera. The sparkling overture is a wonderful way to get your wedding off to a memorable start. *Eine kleine Nachtmusik* was written in August, 1787. The occasion of its composition is unknown, but was likely to have been written for domestic performance. The joyful opening movement of the piece would provide elegant exit music for your wedding.

♡ FRANCOIS-JOSEPH GOSSEC (1734-1829) (01:33)
(12) *Tambourin* (from *Naxos 8.554166*)

Gossec's catchy *Tambourin* for pipe (flute) and drum is full of rhythmic swing. It is a French character-piece reputedly based on Provencal folk-dance. An excellent choice for country weddings!

♡ EDVARD GRIEG (1843-1907) (05:34)
(13) *Wedding-day at Trolldhaugen* (from *Naxos 8.550168*)

Wedding-day at Trolldhaugen appears in one of the sets of Grieg's Lyric Pieces. It is typical of the colourful and illustrative writing of Norway's leading nationalist composer of the time. The piano version of the piece is another good choice for country weddings!

♡ CHARLES-MARIE WIDOR (1845-1937) (06:15)
(15) *Toccata* (from *Naxos 8.550790*)

Widor moved from Lyon to Paris in 1870, when he became organist at St. Sulpice, a position he held for the next sixty years. The *Toccata* forms one of the movements in the fifth of Widor's monumental organ symphonies. Characterized by cascading chords which fill the whole building with jubilant sounds, it is a mighty work and a frequent choice for the exit music of the bride and groom.

♡ SIR WILLIAM WALTON (1902-1983) (01:54)
(16) *Crown Imperial* (from *Naxos 8.553981*)

Walton's *Crown Imperial* was commissioned by the BBC for the coronation of Edward VIII but was used for that of George VI following Edward's abdication. *Crown Imperial* is a quintessentially English ceremonial march with a broad processional theme similar to Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance Marches*. It is ideal exit music for brides and grooms who wish to feel like a newly crowned king and queen!

- ♡ FELIX MENDELSSOHN (1809-1847)
(18) *Wedding March (from Naxos 8.550790)*

(06:17)

Perhaps the most famous of all wedding tunes, Mendelssohn's *Wedding March* was included in his incidental music for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The play, in German translation, was first performed with Mendelssohn's music in 1843 at Potsdam for the King of Prussia. It celebrates the wedding of Theseus and Hippolyta whose nuptial celebrations frame the plot, and is one of the most enduringly popular choices for exit music.

CD 2

A SELECTION OF MUSIC FOR BEFORE THE CEREMONY, AND DURING THE SIGNING OF THE REGISTER

- ♡ J.S. BACH (1685-1750)
(1) *Air on a G String (from Naxos 8.550194)*

(05:41)

See note for CD 1, track 8

- ♡ LUIGI BOCCHERINI (1768-1805)
(2) *String Quintet Op. 11: Minuet (from Naxos 8.554166)*

(02:55)

Boccherini was an Italian virtuoso cellist and worked first in his native Lucca and then in Vienna, before moving to Paris and thence to Spain, where he seems to have remained from 1768 until his death in 1805. One of Boccherini most famous pieces is the merry *Minuet*, taken from one of his quintets, written for a string quartet with an additional cello. It is a spritely piece, perfect for setting a lively tone for the start of your wedding.

- ♡ ANTONIO VIVALDI (1678-1741)
(3) *The Four Seasons: Winter – Largo (from Naxos 8.550056)*

(02:25)

See note for CD 1, track 9

♡ ERIK SATIE (1866-1925)

(4) *Gymnopédie No. 1* (from Naxos 8.554166)

(03:01)

A French composer as eccentric in his way of life as in his music, Satie exercised considerable influence over some of his more distinguished contemporaries, including Debussy, Ravel and Poulenc. A number of his compositions have become very familiar to many, largely through their use in other contexts. It is principally the piano pieces, such as *Gymnopédie No. 1* (which is also available in several arrangements), that have established Satie's popularity. This is a delightfully smooth and relaxed piece of music, perfect for calming any nerves!

♡ CHRISTOPH WILLIBALD GLUCK (1714-1787)

(5) *Dance of the Blessed Spirits* (from Naxos 8.554166)

(04:45)

Gluck's opera *Orfeo ed Euridice* is a treatment of the legend of the musician Orpheus and his journey to the Underworld to bring back again his beloved Euridice. The drama of the story is very much part of the music. This early opera is an ancient illustration of the power of music, and the beautiful *Dance of the Blessed Spirits* is a blissfully transcendental work. This arrangement is for flute and harp, and although this combination brings out the ethereal quality of the music it is suitable for most high register solo instruments with piano accompaniment.

♡ FELIX MENDELSSOHN (1809-1847)

(6) *On Wings of Song Op. 34* (from Naxos 8.550141)

(04:40)

Felix Mendelssohn provided his contemporaries with a number of albums of short piano pieces of great charm. *On Wings of Song* was originally a setting of a poem by Heinrich Heine, written in 1840, and was to prove enormously popular.

♡ CLAUDE DEBUSSY (1862-1918)

(7) *Arabesque No. 1* (from Naxos 8.554166)

(04:16)

(13) *Suite bergamasque: Clair de lune* (from Naxos 8.553290)

(05:14)

Finely imaged, delicately balanced salon music, the popular *Arabesque No. 1* comes from a set of two for piano published in Paris in 1891. *Clair de lune* (1905) has enjoyed much recognition over the years. It is a very tender piece, evocative of moonlit romance.

♡ LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)

(8) Für Elise (from Naxos 8.550109)

(03:27)

As well as the larger works, Beethoven wrote a quantity of short piano pieces. There is no finer or more famous an example of a short piece than *Bagatelle in A minor*, inscribed, it once seemed, für Elise ('for Elise'), but generally supposed to have been designed for Thérèse Malfatti, whom he had hoped to marry. The little piece was completed in 1810, the year of Beethoven's rejection as a suitor. It is now often used in films and commercial soundtracks.

♡ CHARLES STANFORD (1852-1924)

(9) The Bluebird (from Naxos 8.553088)

(03:47)

In the hauntingly beautiful song The Bluebird, Stanford's music creates a texture over which the soprano can soar, much as the bird whose reflection we see in the lake, the disjointed calls of 'blue' being glimpses of the bird as it comes in and out of sight. To reproduce this song to best advantage requires a soprano of considerable breath control and pitch accuracy.

♡ GABRIEL FAURÉ (1845-1924)

(10) Sicilienne Op. 78 (from Naxos 8554166)

(03:41)

(18) Pavane Op. 50 (from Naxos 8.550480)

(07:22)

Fauré was a pupil of Saint-Saëns, organist at La Madeleine, Director of the Paris Conservatoire and Ravel's teacher. The *Sicilienne*, for cello and piano became famous through the incidental music for the 1898 English production of *Pelléas et Mélisande*. The *Pavane* dates from 1887, the same year as the Requiem. Originally written for orchestra alone, chorus parts were also added. It is rarely performed with the chorus nowadays, and is usually enjoyed in smaller arrangements for its classical elegance. It is just right for wedding music.

♡ JULES MASSENET (1842-1912)
(11) *Méditation from Thaïs (from Naxos 8.550306)*

(05:19)

Massenet was the most prolific opera composer of 19th Century France, and his music is particularly noted for its lyricism. The opera *Thaïs* is most famous for the violin solo *Méditation*. This reflective work has become one of the best-loved miniatures of recent years and is available in several arrangements so there will be one to suit your wedding!

♡ GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL (1685-1759)
(12) *Water Music: Air (from Naxos 8.557764)*

(02:33)

Handel's *Water Music* is a suitably ceremonial collection of pieces written to accompany the king as he floated down the Thames in his barge. Loud and resonant, it was music to be played outdoors in an atmosphere of excitement and celebration. Handel was a master at this kind of spectacular, exciting music, and the story is told that the king demanded that it be played no fewer than three times. There are some excellent string quartet arrangements of the water music available. The *Air* and the *Hornpipe* (CD 1, track 14) are among the most popular and admired movements.

♡ CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS (1835-1921)
(14) *Carnival of the Animals: The Swan (from Naxos 8.550499)*

(03:12)

Camille Saint-Saëns was a gifted pianist and a prolific composer. The popular *Carnival of the Animals*, described as 'A Zoological Fantasy', was written in 1886, originally for two pianos and a small chamber orchestra, to celebrate that year's carnival. One of the most frequently performed movements of the *Carnival of the Animals* is *The Swan*, a serene and contemplative piece for solo cello.

♡ GEORGES BIZET (1838-1975)

(15) Carmen: Intermezzo (*from Naxos 8.554166*)

(02:32)

The *Intermezzo* from the first orchestral suite of Bizet's popular opera *Carmen* is set in a smugglers' wild mountain cave where Carmen the gypsy girl is taunting Don José and thinking of Escamillo the toreador! It is a hauntingly beautiful melody.

♡ J.S. BACH (1685-1750)

(16) Cello Suite No. 1: Prelude (*from Naxos 8.555992-93*)

(02:36)

Bach's *Six Suites for unaccompanied cello* were written about the year 1720. Each of the suites opens with a prelude. The *Prelude to Suite No. 1 in G major* is one of the most popular movements of all. It is a resplendent piece full of arching phrases and calming harmonies.

♡ EDWARD ELGAR (1857-1934)

(17) Salut d'amour (*from Naxos 8.554166*)

(03:29)

Elgar's *Salut d'Amour* (1888) was dedicated to his wife Caroline Alice. It is tea-time salon piece and has become one of the most frequently whistled tunes by one of England's favourite composers.

OBTAINING SHEET MUSIC

If you intend to hire an instrumentalist or ensemble, you will probably find that they have a large selection of music and are likely to have many of these pieces in their repertoire already. However if you do need to start from scratch, here are a few tips on getting hold of sheet music.

There are instrument shops in most large town centres and these often have a good selection of instrumental and vocal music, or will be able to order music in for you. Bear in mind that this can take a few weeks or longer, depending on availability. Some large bookshops also stock sheet music. However for relatively obscure music or arrangements it is probably best to go straight to a specialist supplier of sheet music. A couple of the bigger suppliers are listed below and have an online service if you are unable to visit their shops in person.

Chappell of Bond Street

50 New Bond Street

London

W1S 1RD

(branch also in Milton Keynes)

Telephone: 020 7491 2777

Fax: 020 7491 0133

www.chappellofbondstreet.co.uk

Boosey & Hawkes Ltd

16 Wigmore Street

London

W1

Telephone: 020 7079 5940

E-Mail: musicshop@boosey.com

www.boosey.com

THE LEGAL SIDE

The following comments apply to the United Kingdom. Other countries have similar laws, although the protection societies are different.

Introduction

No-one wants to break the law – least of all on their Wedding Day - and there are certain rules to protect the rights of people like composers, artists or record companies who have invested time, talent, skill or money in creating a piece of music, performing it or producing a recording of it.

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To apply for a licence, the venue needs to phone the PPL on 020 7543 1000 or go to www.ppluk.com

Performing Live Music in public places

If you would like to have live music (e.g. featuring a vocalist or instrument or combination of instruments) played at your wedding then the hosting venue needs to hold a licence from the PRS, the Performing Rights Society. This entitles the venue to allow music to be played, and ensures that the rights of the composer and publisher of the music are protected. The monies collected from venues all around the UK is collected and then distributed by the PRS to composers and songwriters and their publishers. Several of the works on this CD are by composers whose music is no longer in copyright. The basic rule is that, if the composer died more than 70 years ago, their music is out of copyright and thus free to use without any PRS licence. For example, in 2006, any composer who died before 1935 would be out of copyright.

For performing all other composers, either living composers or those who died in 1936 or after, a licence from the PRS needs to be acquired. Go to www.prs.co.uk for further information.

Conclusion

If playing CDs, the venue in which the CD is played must have a PPL Licence from Phonographic Performance Ltd.

If performing music live, written by a composer who is alive or who has been dead fewer than 70 years, you must ensure the venue in which the music is played is either exempt or has a PRS Licence, issued by the Performing Rights Society.

CD 1

1. PACHELBEL Canon	4:47
2. WAGNER Bridal Chorus from Lohengrin	2:13
3. CLARKE Trumpet Voluntary	2:33
4. HANDEL Royal Fireworks Music: Overture	7:13
5. MUSSORGSKY Promenade	2:00
6. HANDEL Fireworks Music: Le Réjouissance	3:07
7. HANDEL Arrival of the Queen of Sheba	3:29
8. BACH Suite No. 2: Badinerie	1:25
9. VIVALDI The Four Seasons: Spring - Allegro	3:35
10. PURCELL Trumpet Tune	1:24
11. MOZART The Marriage of Figaro: Overture	4:19
12. GOSSEC Tambourin	1:33
13. GRIEG Wedding Day at Troldhaugen	5:34
14. HANDEL Water Music: Hornpipe	2:45
15. WIDOR Toccata	6:15
16. WALTON Crown Imperial	1:54
17. MOZART Eine kleine Nachtmusik: Allegro	6:07
18. MENDELSSOHN Wedding March	6:17

Total Timing: 66:30

CD 2

1. BACH Air on a G String	05:41
2. BOCCHERINI String Quintet Op. 11: Minuet	02:55
3. VIVALDI The Four Seasons: Winter—Largo	02:25
4. SATIE Gymnopédie No. 1	03:01
5. GLUCK Dance of the Blessed Spirits	04:45
6. MENDELSSOHN On Wings of Song	04:40
7. DEBUSSY Arabesque No. 1	04:16
8. BEETHOVEN Für Elise	03:27
9. STANFORD The Bluebird	03:47
10. FAURÉ Sicilienne	03:41
11. MASSENET Meditation	05:19
12. HANDEL Water Music: Air	02:33
13. DEBUSSY Clair de lune	05:14
14. SAINT-SAËNS The Swan	03:12
15. BIZET Carmen: Intermezzo	02:32
16. BACH Cello Suite No. 1: Prelude	02:36
17. ELGAR Salut d'amour	03:29
18. FAURÉ Pavane	07:22

Total Timing: 70:57

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- 13** GRIEG Wedding Day at Troldhaugen **14** HANDEL Water Music: Hornpipe
- 15** WIDOR Toccata **16** WALTON Crown Imperial **17** MOZART Eine kleine Nachtmusik: Allegro
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- 3** VIVALDI The Four Seasons: Winter - Largo **4** SATIE Gymnopédie No. 1
- 5** GLUCK Dance of the Blessed Spirits **6** MENDELSSOHN On Wings of Song
- 7** DEBUSSY Arabesque No. 1 **8** BEETHOVEN Für Elise **9** STANFORD The Bluebird
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