

Order of Christian Funerals

Some Music Suggestions

taken from Into Your Hands

Most of us are rarely asked to choose music for a church service and may not know where to start. This list is provided to give some ideas. (It is not an 'official list' of approved music.)

Sometimes there is already a starting point: the wishes of the dead person. These may have been written down, or you may know a favourite hymn or hymns which they would have wanted or which you yourself find inspiring or comforting. This list cannot include every possible hymn, but it contains some which have been found helpful and may help you think of others.

Much new music has been written in recent years. If you see a title here which you would like to know more about, the organist or whoever will be leading the music may be able to help you.

If you find the task of choosing music daunting, please say so. In the same way you may not feel like singing, but there will be other people at the funeral who will sing for you.

Traditional Hymns*

Abide with me
All my hope on God is founded
Be thou my vision
Firmly I believe and truly
For all the saints
Guide me, O thou great redeemer
I heard the voice of Jesus say
O Jesus, I have promised
Lead, kindly light
Lord of all hopefulness
Now the green blade riseth
O God, our help in ages past
Praise to the holiest in the height
Praise we our God with joy
Sing with all the saints in glory
Soul of my Saviour
Thine be the glory

Modern Hymns and Songs*

Be still and know I am with you
Be not afraid
Go, silent friend
How great thou art
I am the bread of life
Like a child rests
Jesu, son of Mary
O the love of my Lord
On eagle's wings
There is a longing in our hearts
Unless a grain of wheat
We walk by faith
Yahweh, I know you are near

** You may also find suitable hymns in the following categories in the hymnbook used in the parish: Anointing and Healing, Comfort, Eternal Life, Faith, Guidance, Hope and Trust, Love of God for us, Peace, Praise, Funerals, Easter*

Taizé chants

Bless the Lord, my soul
Jesus, remember me
O Lord, hear my prayer
O Christe, Domine Jesu
In the Lord I'll be ever thankful

Latin Requiem Mass

Some parts of this (*In paradisum, Requiem Aeternam, Sanctus* and *Agnus Dei*) are to be found in *Music for the Funeral Rite* (MFR, McCrimmon 1990) and *Laudate* (Decani Music, 1999.)

Psalms

To have a Responsorial Psalm sung, as in many places on Sundays, a singer will be needed. They will be able to find a setting of most of the psalms printed on pp. 34-37 below in the book they use for Sundays, or in *Music for the Funeral Rite*. Some other modern psalm settings are:

- **Psalm 22(23)**: Because the Lord is my shepherd (Walker) or Shepherd me, O God (Haugen) - requires a singer .
- **Psalm 41(42)**: As the deer longs (Hurd) or O God. for you I long (Farrell)
- **Psalm 62(63)**: Your love is finer than life (Haugen) - requires a singer

If there is no singer available, the psalm may be sung by everybody present as a hymn or song:

- **Psalm 22(23)**: The Lord's my shepherd or The king of love my shepherd is
- **Psalm 102(103)**: Praise, my soul, the King of heaven
- **Psalm 41(42)**: As longs the deer

Alleluia

The Gospel Acclamation is important as it prepares everyone to listen to the Gospel. Most people will know the Easter (or Paschal) alleluia and if there is someone to start it off, the organist or the priest, will join in. In Lent the Gospel Acclamation is not Alleluia but 'Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory' or a similar verse.

Mass Settings

If at all possible the *Holy, Holy, Memorial Acclamation* and *Great Amen* should be sung at Mass. You will know if there is some music which is familiar in the parish and likely to be easy for the people attending to sing.

Songs of Farewell

May the choirs of angels
Saints of God (MFR, nos. 21 & 44)
I know that my redeemer lives (MFR, *Laudate*)

Procession from Church

May flights of angels (MFR)
May God the Father look on you (*Laudate*)
May the angels lead you into paradise (MFR)
May choirs of angels welcome you (MFR)
In paradisum (Latin Requiem)