



Common Songs and Hymns for Funeral Service

Choosing the right music and songs for your loved ones' funeral will personalize the service and truly celebrate their life in a lasting way.

Songs can easily bring memories of your loved one every time you hear it.



What music is played at funerals?

A funeral service is a celebration of life and song(s) should encourage this feeling, music can be a central part of any ceremony.

Can any music be suitable for a funeral?

If it's a representation of your loved one and it won't cause offense to their family or friends, there is no music that's off limits.

Genres can vary from pop songs, classical music, TV theme songs, heavy metal music – and plenty more.





How to choose funeral music?

When you are thinking of songs to play at your loved one's funeral, try not to limit yourself to what other people say is a good choice for a funeral song.

Start by thinking about your loved one's favorite songs and consider if any of them would be meaningful to play during the service.

Songs can also be representative of your loved ones, so choosing one that makes you think of them may be a good choice. A funeral is a celebration of life, and don't skip playing the happy songs.

How many pieces of music do you have at funerals?

Traditionally, funerals have at least two music slots – one for entering and one for leaving. If you are choosing to include a slideshow or something similar, this can be another chance to add music throughout the funeral.

Many families choose to play a song after the eulogy to allow reflection or even bring a celebratory note to the ceremony as well.

Should a funeral director sort out music for the service?

For services, the family chooses the music and informs the funeral director, who will then organize it. If the service is being held at a church, the family will usually deal with the minister directly.



When you are making funeral plans it's a good idea to consider whether you are going to play a piece of music at any point.

The music is a simple way to personalize the ceremony and often sets the tone for the entire service – joyful, sad, uplifting.

Contemporary

- Wind Beneath My Wings – Bette Midler
- The Rose – Bette Midler
- Supermarket Flowers – Ed Sheeran
- Memories – Maroon 5
- Monsters – James Blunt
- Bridge over Troubled Water – Simon and Garfunkel
- The Prayer – Celine Dion and Josh Groban
- In the Arms of the Angel – Sarah McLachlan
- I Will Remember You – Sarah McLachlan
- Time to Say Goodbye – Andrea Bocelli and Sarah Brightman
- Hallelujah – Leonard Cohen, Rufus Wainwright, KD Lang, The Canadian Tenors
- You Raise Me Up – Josh Groban
- Somewhere over the Rainbow – Israel Kamakawiwo'ole
- Morning Has Broken – Cat Stevens
- We'll Meet Again – Vera Lynn
- Wonderful World – Louis Armstrong

Crooners

- My Way – Frank Sinatra
- Smile – Nat King Cole

Irish

- Danny Boy – John McDermott
- The Parting Glass – Ed Sheeran



French Contemporary

- Ceux qui s'en vont - Ginette Reno
- Non Je Ne Regrette Rien - Édith Piaf
- Berceuse - Céline Dion
- Un ange qui passe - Anne Villeneuve
- Tu t'en vas - Alain Barrière
- Avec le temps - Léo Ferré
- Le cœur de vieillit pas - Chantal Pary
- Prends bien soin d'elle - Claude Barzotti
- Si Dieu existe - Claude Dubois
- Cri du cœur - Édith Piaf
- Les mots d'amour - Édith Piaf
- Emmenez-moi - Charles Aznavour
- L'amour en héritage - Nana Mouskouri
- L'amour existe encore - Céline Dion
- Depuis le premier jour - Isabelle Boulay
- Les feuilles mortes - Yves Montand
- Hymne au printemps - Félix Leclerc
- Je t'aime - Lara Fabian
- On va s'aimer encore - Vincent Vallières
- Quand les hommes vivront d'amour - Raymond Lévesque
- Quand on a que l'amour - Jacques Brel
- Si Fragile - Luc de Larochelière
- Une chance qu'on s'a - Jean-Pierre Ferland
- Vole - Céline Dion
- Ces oiseaux-là - Lara Fabian

- C'était l'hiver - Francis Cabrel
- Adieu - Fleur-Lise
- Tu peux partir - La Chicane
- Je vous emporte dans mon cœur - Gilles Servat
- Tout au bout de nos peines - Isabelle Boulay
- Le saule - Isabelle Boulay
- Ne retiens pas tes larmes - Amel Bent
- Ton départ - Marc Dupré
- Je t'aimais, je t'aime et je t'aimerai - Francis Cabrel

French Religious

- Un monde meilleur
- Trouver dans ma vie ta présence
- Je crois en toi mon Dieu
- Oui, je me lèverai
- Au cœur de nos détresses
- Ils sont nombreux les bienheureux
- Je viens vers Toi les mains ouvertes
- Sur le seuil de sa maison
- Venez Divin Messie
- Entre tes mains
- Gethsémani
- Va plus loin
- Le Seigneur est mon berger



Don't forget, a funeral should be a celebration of life and music can be an important part of this celebration.

Rock and Roll

- Candle in the Wind - Elton John
- My Sweet Lord - George Harrison
- Stand By Me - Ben E. King
- In My Life - The Beatles
- Let it Be - The Beatles
- One Love - Bob Marley
- Long As I Can See the Light - Creedence Clearwater Revival
- God Only Knows - The Beach Boys
- Spirit in the Sky - Norman Greenbaum

Country

- When I Get Where I'm Going - Brad Paisley
- Go Rest High on That Mountain - Vince Gill
- The Dance - Garth Brooks
- Humble and Kind - Tim McGraw
- See You Again - Carrie Underwood

Military

- The Airman's Hymn
- Eternal Father Strong to Save (Navy Hymn)
- I Vow to Thee My Country
- Flower in the Forest (Bagpipes)
- Flower of Scotland (Bagpipes)
- Regimental march songs

Christian

- How Great Thou Art - Anne Murray, Carrie Underwood, Elvis
- Amazing Grace - Judy Collins, Susan Boyle, Il Divo
- On Eagles Wings - Michael Joncas
- Abide With Me - William Henry Monk
- Ave Maria - Barbara Streisand, Schubert, Céline Dion
- The Lord's My Shepherd - Hymn
- It Is Well with My Soul
- Here I Am Lord

Classical

- Mozart Requiem - Lacrimosa
- Air on the G string - Bach
- Kyrie Eleison - Keith Washo
- Vivaldi - Spring
- Gabriel's Oboe - Ennio Morricone
- Clair de Lune - Claude Debussy
- Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring - Bach
- Pachelbel's Canon in D
- Nocturne op. 9 No. 2 - Chopin
- Bach - Sheep May Safely Graze
- Beethoven - Moonlight Sonata
- Trois Gymnopedies - Erik Satie



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