



## MUSIC TIPS FOR CATHOLIC FUNERAL MASS

### INSTRUMENT CHOICE

**Singers –** Naoise is the main singer with Encore Occasions. However, you can request other singers, male or female or duos.

**Musicians –** Piano or organ is the main accompanying instrument in most cases.

Organ provides a more traditional sound. In contrast, piano can provide lighter touches and delicate accompaniment.

- If you choose to add one extra instrument, in most cases, we suggest violin. The violin adds a beautiful touch and is suitable for traditional hymns, Irish music or any contemporary pieces you may choose. It also adds something special to any instrumental pieces you decide to include.

- Other options we arrange include: String Quartet | Classical Guitar | Irish Whistles | Solo Flute | Concert Harp | Solo Cello | or specific requests such as Uilleann Pipes, Oboe, Trumpet etc.

### ORDER OF SERVICE

#### Opening Hymn:

This is usually liturgical. Suggestions are:

Here I Am Lord  
Be Not Afraid  
Morning Has Broken  
Céad Míle Fáilte

But if you prefer (and if priest allows), you could maybe choose something like

Sleepsong (on our website)  
Voice of an Angel

#### Memorial Gifts:

You may/may not choose to do this part. If you do, we sometimes play gentle instrumental music underneath as memorial gifts are being brought forward to the altar.

#### Responsorial Psalm:

\*Please note that the Psalm is either sung OR read.

If sung, the Psalm must be chosen from a specific list of music from The Book of Psalms.

Traditional Psalms:

Be Not Afraid  
The Lord's My Shepherd  
Here I Am Lord  
On Eagle's Wings

Contemporary Psalms:

The Cloud's Veil  
Hiding Place  
Mo Ghrá Thu A Thiarna  
You Are Mine

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Short – it's just Alleluia before the Gospel.

Choose:

Hallelujah

Allelu (As Gaeilge, on my website)

Seinn Alleluia

Easter Alleluia

**Offertory:**

Should be a liturgical piece – a perfect place for

Ave Maria

Or you could choose something like:

Ag Críost an Síol

Benedictus

Pie Jesu

**Sign of Peace:**

This is where 'Make Me A Channel of Your Peace' usually goes, but where a family really like music, I'd suggest choosing a nice instrumental piece of music that really means something to you – perhaps a classical piece like Air or Adagio, or a theme from a favourite movie.

**Communion**

**1.** 1<sup>st</sup> song should be liturgical (or instrumental)

**2.** 2<sup>nd</sup> song will be the song that's most heard in the ceremony. It's sometimes nice to choose a reflective piece or something vocally or musically interesting, such as:

Nella Fantasia

Pie Jesu

Sleepsong

To Where You Are

**Blessing:**

Some priests prefer this part of the mass to totally silent.

However, this is rare. It is traditionally where 'Jesus Remember Me' is sung. Which, we can of course do. Often, we arrange instrumental music here. Perhaps an instrumental version of a song that really means something to you as a family.

Or something that holds a special memory for you – perhaps a favourite movie, composer, something your loved one used to sing or dance to... or a traditional Irish Air. This is a very personal moment for you – but the piece should be slow and reflective and is rarely sung.

**Hymn of Farewell (exit):**

Suggestions for Exit include:

Going Home

I'll Walk With God

May Songs of the Angels Welcome You

I'll Walk Beside You

Holy City (Jerusalem)

Time To Say Goodbye