

Choosing Funeral Music That Actually Means Something

There is no perfect funeral song. Start with the music that sounds like **them** and the memories you shared.

Start With Them

- ☐ What bands or artists did they love?
- ☐ Which albums did they play again and again?
- ☐ Was there a song they always put on?
- ☐ What did they listen to when they were younger?
- ☐ What music did they play in the car?
- ☐ What could you hear around the house?
- ☐ Which concerts or gigs did they go to?
- ☐ What did they sing along to?
- ☐ Is there a song everybody associates with them?
- ☐ Was there a song they absolutely hated? Sometimes that tells you something too.

Look Through What They Left Behind

- ☐ Spotify, Apple Music or another streaming account
- ☐ Playlists they made
- ☐ Music saved on their phone or computer
- ☐ CDs, records or cassettes
- ☐ YouTube history or saved videos
- ☐ Concert tickets, programmes or photos
- ☐ Old photographs that bring a particular song or time to mind

Don't turn this into another enormous job. A quick look may be enough to remind you of something that feels right.

Ask Other People

Try sending one simple question:

“When you think of [name], what band or song immediately comes into your head?”

- ☐ Their partner
- ☐ Their children
- ☐ Brothers or sisters
- ☐ Old friends
- ☐ School or university friends
- ☐ Work friends
- ☐ Friends they went to gigs with
- ☐ Other family members

You do not have to use every suggestion. Notice which songs keep coming up and which ones feel recognisably like them.

Songs or artists people suggested

Music From Different Parts of Their Life

Jot down anything that comes to mind. A title, an artist, a memory or even a few words is enough.

Growing up

Teenage years

University or young adulthood

When we met

Wedding or relationship

Children and family years

Recent years

Music friends associate with them

Songs That Belonged to Us

- ☐ A song connected with how you met
- ☐ A wedding or relationship song
- ☐ A song from a holiday
- ☐ A song tied to a funny story
- ☐ Something they always sang
- ☐ Something you danced to
- ☐ Music from a particular period of your lives
- ☐ The song you immediately think of when you picture them
- ☐ Something that would make everybody smile because it is so completely them

Where Might You Need Music?

You may need more than one piece of music. Ask the person organising the service what is possible.

- ☐ Arrival or entrance
- ☐ During the ceremony
- ☐ A quiet or reflective moment
- ☐ With photographs or a slideshow
- ☐ At the committal
- ☐ Exit music
- ☐ At the wake or gathering afterwards

Anything else to check or ask

My Shortlist

Write down the possibilities before making a final choice. The reason a song matters may help you decide where it belongs.

Song	Artist	Why it matters	Where might we use it?

Before Deciding

- ☐ Listen to the whole song, not just the part you remember.
- ☐ Read the lyrics if you are unsure about any words.
- ☐ Check that you have the version you want.
- ☐ Ask whether the venue has any restrictions.
- ☐ Write down the exact song title, artist and version.
- ☐ Confirm how many pieces of music are allowed.
- ☐ Ask the person organising the service when each piece needs to be supplied.

Forget the Idea of the Perfect Funeral Song

You are not trying to choose the cleverest, most moving or most impressive song. You are choosing music that helps the people there recognise the person they knew.

It may be beautiful, funny, unexpected, ordinary or a little bit inappropriate. What matters is the feeling of:
“That’s them.”

My Notes

Please check arrangements with the funeral director, venue, crematorium or faith community. Requirements and available music systems vary.