

“Basic” Wedding Ceremonies

by Ingrid Heyn
Authorised Marriage Celebrant

- 1. Traditional basic wedding ceremony: script option #1**
- 2. Basic wedding ceremony: script option #2**
- 3. Basic wedding ceremony: script option #3**
- 4. Selection of Readings**
- 5. Selection of Music**

Click here to choose one of the three script options:



If you've selected Traditional basic wedding ceremony #1, please make your choices with the optional sections as shown.

Traditional basic wedding ceremony # 1

Celebrant:

We are gathered here today in the face of this company, to join together [Groom's full legal name] and [Bride's full legal name] in matrimony; which is an honourable and solemn estate and therefore is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently and soberly. [Groom] and [Bride] will be making a pledge to each other, to be true, faithful, loving and devoted to one another. Into this estate these two persons present come now to be joined. My name is Ingrid Heyn, and I am duly authorised by law to solemnise marriages according to law. [---- optional **Tick to include or leave blank to exclude** If anyone can show just cause why they may not be lawfully joined together, let them speak now or forever hold their peace. ----]

[---- optional **Tick to include or leave blank to exclude**

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

Parents / Friend:

We do.

The bride is given away.

Celebrant:

Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these witnesses, I am to remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are now about to enter. Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

[----optional **DECLARATION. Tick to include the declaration or leave blank to exclude**

Celebrant to Groom:

[Groom], do you take [Bride] for your lawful wedded wife, to be joined in matrimony? Will you love, honour, comfort, and cherish her from this day forward, forsaking all others, keeping only unto her for as long as you both shall live?

Groom:

I do.

[----**VOWS. Please select from the vows below.** [Click here to select your vows.](#)

Celebrant to the Groom who repeats the marriage vows:

Vows Option 1: I call upon the persons here present to witness that I, [Groom], take thee, [Bride], to be my lawful wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love, honour, and cherish, 'til death do us part, and thereto I plight thee my troth.

OR

Celebrant to the Groom who repeats the marriage vows:

Vows Option 2: I call upon the persons here present to witness that I [Groom] take thee [Bride] to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love, honour, and cherish, for as long as we both shall live.

OR

Celebrant to the Groom who repeats the marriage vows:

Vows Option 3: I call upon the persons here present to witness that I, [Groom], take you, [Bride], to be my lawful wedded wife.

[----optional **DECLARATION.** (selection as per **DECLARATION** for Groom)

Celebrant to Bride:

[Bride], do you take [Groom] for your lawful wedded husband, to be joined in matrimony? Will you love, honour, comfort, and cherish him from this day forward, forsaking all others, keeping only unto him for as long as you both shall live?

Bride:

I do.

----]

[----**VOWS.** (selection as per **VOWS** for Groom)

Celebrant to the Bride who repeats the marriage vows:

Vows Option 1: I call upon the persons here present to witness that I, [Bride], take thee, [Groom], to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love, honour, and cherish, 'til death do us part, and thereto I plight thee my troth.

OR

Celebrant to the Bride who repeats the marriage vows:

Vows Option 2: I call upon the persons here present to witness that I [Bride] take thee [Groom] to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love, honour, and cherish, for as long as we both shall live.

OR

Celebrant to the Bride who repeats the marriage vows:

Vows Option 3: I call upon the persons here present to witness that I, [Bride], take you, [Groom], to be my wedded husband.

[---- optional **Tick to include or leave blank to exclude**

The Celebrant introduces the ring ceremony – the ring being handed to the Celebrant by the best man or from a ring-bearer.

Celebrant, speaking of the Bride's ring:

May this ring be blessed so he who gives it and she who wears it may live joyously together, and continue in love all their lives.

Groom, placing ring on Bride's finger:

With this ring I thee wed. Wear it as a symbol of our love and commitment.

Celebrant, speaking of the Groom's ring:

May this ring be blessed so she who gives it and he who wears it may live joyously together, and continue in love all their lives.

Bride, placing ring on groom's finger:

With this ring I thee wed. Wear it as a symbol of our love and commitment.

----]

[---- optional **Tick to include or leave blank to exclude**

The ceremony may include music or a reading at this point. See page 10 for readings.

----]

Celebrant: May this couple be prepared to continue to give, be able to forgive and experience more and more joy with each passing day, with each passing year. [Groom] and [Bride], are now beginning their married life together. May they receive loving assistance from their family, the constant support of friends, and a long life with good health and everlasting love. In so much as [Groom] and [Bride] have consented to live forever together in marriage, and have proclaimed their vows to do so before this company as witnesses, having given and pledged their troth, each to the other, and having declared the same by the giving and receiving of a ring, I now pronounce that they are husband and wife.

Celebrant to the couple:

You may now seal this marriage with your first kiss as husband and wife.

Celebrant:

Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you the new couple Mr and Mrs [...]

The signing of the register now takes place, and the ceremony usually includes music at this point.

Bride and Groom sign first, then the two Witnesses, and then the Celebrant.

The Marriage Certificate is now handed to the couple by the Celebrant.

Celebrant:

It is my privilege to present you with your Marriage Certificate.

I would like to thank our witnesses [...] and [...], and to say to everyone here, on behalf of the Bride and Groom, how very much your presence here today has been appreciated. Thank you all for being here as part of this special day, to celebrate with [Bride] and [Groom] as they made this commitment to each other.

Mr and Mrs [...], congratulations as you begin your lives together!

Thank you.

DO NOT COPY

If you've selected Basic wedding ceremony #2, please make your choices with the optional sections as shown.

Basic wedding ceremony # 2

[----- optional **Tick to include or leave blank to exclude**
The ceremony may begin with bridal party entry. This is optional. -----]

[----- optional **Tick to include or leave blank to exclude**
If the bride has been presented by a family member or friend:

Celebrant:

Who brings this woman to be married to this man?

Family member / friend:

I do. -----]

Celebrant:

Welcome family and friends.

Preamble Option 1: We have come together today to witness the promises in marriage of [Groom's full legal name] and [Bride's full legal name].

This commitment is between two people who love each other and wish to share each other's lives, who will grow and change in the years to come, welcoming each other's growth with mutual love and respect. Love means sharing whatever life presents. My name is Ingrid Heyn and I am the registered marriage celebrant authorised to solemnise this marriage according to law.

OR

Preamble Option 2: This ceremony gives social recognition to a union that has already taken place in the hearts of [Groom's full legal name] and [Bride's full legal name]). My name is Ingrid Heyn and I am the registered marriage celebrant authorised to solemnise this marriage according to the law. I take this opportunity to wish you both much happiness in your future lives together.

Please make your selection. [Click to select.](#)

Celebrant:

[Groom's name] and [Bride's name], do you declare before me and before your witnesses here present, that you come here voluntarily and without reservation and that you are free by law to be married to each other today?

Groom and Bride respond:

Yes, I do.

[----- optional **Tick to include or leave blank to exclude**
The ceremony may include music or a reading at this point. See page 10 for readings. -----]

Celebrant:

Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these witnesses, I am to remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are now about to enter.

Marriage, according to the law in Australia, is the union of two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

Celebrant (with Groom repeating the vows spoken first by the Celebrant):

I ask everyone here present to witness that I [Groom's name] take you [Bride's name] to be my lawful wedded wife. I promise to love you, to care for you and to respect you **Vows option 1: for as long as we both shall live OR Vows option 2: for all of my life. Please make your selection.** [Click to select.](#)

Celebrant (with Bride repeating the vows spoken first by the Celebrant):

I ask everyone here present to witness that I [Bride's name] take you [Groom's name] to be my lawful wedded husband. I promise to love you, to care for you and to respect you **Vows option 1: for as long as we both shall live OR Vows option 2: for all of my life. (selection as per Vows option for Groom)**

[----- optional [Tick to include or leave blank to exclude](#)

The Celebrant introduces the ring ceremony – the ring being handed to the Celebrant by the best man or from a ring-bearer.

Celebrant:

[Groom's name] and [Bride's name] have chosen to exchange rings as an outward symbol of their commitment to each other.

The band of the wedding ring represents everlasting love, the ring a never-ending circle with no beginning and no end.

Celebrant (with Groom repeating the words spoken first by the Celebrant):

Exchange of Rings Option 1: [Bride's name], accept this ring as a symbol of my love and of all we share.
OR

Exchange of Rings Option 2: [Bride's name], take this ring and wear it with my love.
Please make your selection. [Click to select.](#)

Celebrant (with Bride repeating the words spoken first by the Celebrant):

Exchange of Rings Option 1: [Bride's name], accept this ring as a symbol of my love and of all we share.
OR

Exchange of Rings Option 2: [Bride's name], take this ring and wear it with my love.
(selection as per Exchange of Rings option for Groom)

Celebrant:

Ladies and gentlemen, (and children) / Family and friends, [Groom's name] and [Bride's name] have declared before all of us that they now wish to live and love together in marriage.

Let us hope this day will form a milestone in your lives, one that you will look back upon with much joy and happiness.

It therefore gives me great pleasure to pronounce you husband and wife.

Congratulations; you may now both kiss, if you wish.

The signing of the register now takes place, and the ceremony usually includes music at this point.

Bride and Groom sign first, then the two Witnesses, and then the Celebrant.

The Marriage Certificate is now handed to the couple by the Celebrant.

Celebrant:

Ladies and gentlemen, family and friends, on behalf of the Bride and Groom, thank you all for coming here today to celebrate with [Groom's name] and [Bride's name] on their Wedding Day and for making their day so special.

Congratulations again to [Groom's name] and [Bride's name].

If you've selected Basic wedding ceremony #3, please make your choices with the optional sections as shown.

Basic wedding ceremony # 3

Celebrant:

Good morning / afternoon / evening, my name is Ingrid Heyn, and I am an authorised marriage celebrant duly authorised by law to solemnise marriages according to law. I am present today to officiate at the marriage of [Groom's/Party 1's full legal name] and [Bride's/Party 2's full legal name].

Celebrant:

Do you [Groom's/Party 1's name] and do you [Bride's/Party 2's name] declare before me and your witnesses that you are free by law to be married to each other today?

Bride and Groom / Party 1 and Party 2:

Yes, we do.

Celebrant:

Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these witnesses, I am to remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are now about to enter. Marriage, according to the law in Australia, is the union of two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

Celebrant (with Groom/Party 1 repeating the words spoken first by the Celebrant):

I ask everyone here present to witness that I [Groom's/Party 1's name] take you [Bride's/Party 2's name] to be my lawful wife [or spouse].

Celebrant (with Bride/Party 2 repeating the words spoken first by the Celebrant):

I ask everyone here present to witness that I [Bride's/Party 2's name] take you [Groom's/Party 1's name] to be my lawful wedded husband [or spouse].

[----- optional **Tick to include or leave blank to exclude**

Exchange of rings

Celebrant (with Groom/Party 1 repeating the words spoken first by the Celebrant):

[Bride's/Party 2's name] wear this ring as a symbol of our union.

Celebrant (with Bride/Party 2 repeating the words spoken first by the Celebrant):

[Groom's/Party 1's name], wear this ring as a symbol of our union.

Celebrant:

You have both made the declarations by law. In front of your family/friends as witnesses, I now pronounce that you are married.

The signing of the register now takes place, and the ceremony usually includes music at this point.

The couple sign first, then the two Witnesses, and then the Celebrant.

The Marriage Certificate is now handed to the couple by the Celebrant.

Celebrant:

Ladies and gentlemen, family and friends, on behalf of the couple, thank you all for coming here today to celebrate with [Groom's/Party 1's name] and [Bride's/Party 2's name] on their Wedding Day. Congratulations again to [Groom's/Party 1's name] and [Bride's/Party 2's name].

DO NOT COPY

List of Readings for inclusion in Basic Ceremony

Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861)

SONNETS FROM THE PORTUGUESE

XLIII. HOW DO I LOVE THEE?

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight
For the ends of Being and ideal Grace.

I love thee to the level of everyday's
Most quiet need, by sun and candlelight.
I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;
I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.

I love thee with the passion put to use
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints, I love thee with the breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life! and, if God choose,
I shall but love thee better after death.

Ben Jonson (1572-1637)

TO CELIA

Drink to me, only, with thine eyes,
And I will pledge with mine;
Or leave a kiss but in the cup,
And I'll not look for wine.
The thirst that from the soul doth rise,
Doth ask a drink divine:
But might I of Jove's nectar sup,
I would not change for thine.
I sent thee, late, a rosy wreath,
Not so much honouring thee,
As giving it a hope, that there
It could not withered be.
But thou thereon didst only breathe,
And sent'st back to me:
Since when it grows, and smells, I swear,
Not of itself, but thee.

Anonymous

IRISH WEDDING BLESSING

You are the star of each night,
You are the brightness of every morning,
You are the story of each guest,
You are the report of every land.
No evil shall befall you, on hill nor bank,
In field or valley, on mountain or in glen.
Neither above, nor below, neither in sea,
Nor on shore, in skies above,
Nor in the depths.
You are the kernel of my heart,
You are the face of my sun,
You are the harp of my music,
You are the crown of my company

Biblical

SONG OF SONGS (THE VOICE OF MY BELOVED!...)

The voice of my beloved!
Behold, he comes
Leaping upon the mountains,
Skipping upon the hills.
My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag.
Behold, he stands behind our wall;
He is looking through the windows,
Gazing through the lattice.
My beloved spoke, and said to me:
"Rise up, my love, my fair one,
And come away.
For lo, the winter is past,
The rain is over *and* gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;
The time of singing has come,
And the voice of the turtledove
Is heard in our land.
The fig tree puts forth her green figs,
And the vines *with* the tender grapes
Give a *good* smell.
Rise up, my love, my fair one,
And come away!
"O my dove, in the clefts of the rock,
In the secret *places* of the cliff,
Let me see your face,
Let me hear your voice;
For your voice *is* sweet,
And your face *is* lovely."

SONG OF SONGS (SET ME AS A SEAL UPON YOUR HEART...)

Set me as a seal upon your heart,
As a seal upon your arm;
For love *is as* strong as death,
Jealousy *as* cruel as the grave;
Its flames *are* flames of fire,
A most vehement flame.
Many waters cannot quench love,
Nor can the floods drown it.

Anonymous

YOU HAVE BECOME MINE FOREVER
(TRANSLATED FROM HINDI)

You have become mine forever.
Yes, we have become partners.
I have become yours.
Hereafter, I cannot live without you.
Do not live without me.
Let us share the joys.
We are word and meaning, unite.
You are thought and I am sound.

May the nights be honey-sweet for us.
May the mornings be honey-sweet for us.
May the plants be honey-sweet for us.
May the earth be honey-sweet for us.

Anonymous

FROM NAVAJO WEDDING CEREMONY

Now you have lit a fire and that fire should not go out.
The two of you now have a fire that represents love, understanding and a philosophy of life.
It will give you heat, food, warmth and happiness.
The new fire represents a new beginning - a new life and a new family.
The fire should keep burning; you should stay together.
You have lit the fire for life, until old age separates you.

FROM THE PROPHET

ON MARRIAGE

“Then Almitra spoke again and said, “And what of Marriage, master?”
And he answered saying:
You were born together, and together you shall be forevermore.
You shall be together when white wings of death scatter your days.
Aye, you shall be together even in the silent memory of God.
But let there be spaces in your togetherness,
And let the winds of the heavens dance between you.
Love one another but make not a bond of love:
Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls.
Fill each other’s cup but drink not from one cup.
Give one another of your bread but eat not from the same loaf.
Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each one of you be alone,
Even as the strings of a lute are alone though they quiver with the same music.
Give your hearts, but not into each other’s keeping.
For only the hand of Life can contain your hearts.
And stand together, yet not too near together:
For the pillars of the temple stand apart,
And the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other’s shadow.”

You can select three pieces of music for inclusion in your ceremony (optional) by ticking your choices from the music titles below, or enter your own selection further below.

List of Music for inclusion in Basic Ceremony

Classical Vocal Music for Weddings

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| BACH: Alleluja (from "Jauchzet Gott") | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BACH: Bist du bei mir | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BACH: Jauchzet Gott in aller Landen | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BACH: Wedding cantata | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BACH-GOUNOD: Ave Maria | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BEETHOVEN: Ich liebe dich | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BELLINI: Vaga luna | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CACCINI (popularly attrib.): Ave Maria | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CACCINI: Amarilli, mia bella | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CHARPENTIER: Depuis le jour | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CHAUSSON: La Nuit (duet) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CHAUSSON: Réveil (duet) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DELIBES: Flower Duet (duet) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DOWLAND: Awake, sweet love | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DOWLAND: Come again, sweet love | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DOWLAND: Time Stands Still | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| FAURÉ: Après un rêve | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| FAURÉ: Clair de lune | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| FAURÉ: Les Roses d'Ispahan | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| FAURÉ: Notre amour | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| FRANCK: Panis Angelicus | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| GIORDANI: Caro mio ben | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| GRIEG: Jeg elsker Dig (I love you) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HAHN: L'heure exquise | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HANDEL: Eternal source of light | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HANDEL: Let the bright seraphim | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HANDEL: Oh! had I Jubal's lyre | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HANDEL: Rejoice greatly | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HANDEL: V'adoro pupille | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HANDEL: Where'er you walk | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| LISZT: Oh! Quand je dors | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| LOTTI: Pur dicesti, o bocca bella | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| LUZZASCHI: O primavera | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| MASSENET: Rêvons, c'est l'heure (duet) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| MONTEVERDI: Exulta filia Sion | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| MONTEVERDI: Pur ti miro | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| MOZART: Alleluja (from "Exsultate jubilate") | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| MOZART: Deh vieni, non tardar (from Marriage of Figaro) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| MOZART: Domine Deus (duet from Great Mass) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| MOZART: Et incarnatus est (from Great Mass) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| MOZART: Exsultate, jubilate | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| MOZART: L'amero, sarò costante (from Il Re Pastore) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| MOZART: Laudamus te (from Great Mass) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

MOZART: Ruhe sanft (from Zaide)
OBRADORS: Al amor
OBRADORS: Del cabello más sutil
OBRADORS: La mi sola
PUCCINI: Che il bel sogno di Doretta (from La Rondine)
PUCCINI: Un bel di vedremo (from Madame Butterfly)
PURCELL: Ah! how sweet it is to love
PURCELL: Hark! Hark! How all things
PURCELL: Hark! The echoing air
PURCELL: If music be the food of love
PURCELL: Sweeter than roses
R. STRAUSS: Du meines Herzens Krönelein
R. STRAUSS: Ich schwebe
R. STRAUSS: Kling!
R. STRAUSS: Ständchen
R. STRAUSS: Zueignung
RACHMANINOV: Vocalise
RACHMANINOV: Zdes' khoroso
SCHUBERT: Ave Maria
VIVALDI: Any of the solo cantatas
VIVALDI: Laudamus te (duet)
VIVALDI: Esurientes (duet)

MODERN SONGS

The Power of Love (Jennifer Rush)
Everything I Do (Bryan Adams)
Eternal Flame (The Bangles)
I'll Always Love You (Dolly Parton / Whitney Houston)
Unchained Melody (The Righteous Brothers)
Embraceable You (Ella Fitzgerald)
Love walked in (Ella Fitzgerald)
Evergreen (Barbra Streisand)
My Life Belongs to You (Novello – perf. June Bronhill & Enrico Giacomini)
Always (Irving Berlin – perf. Frank Sinatra)
Always (Irving Berlin – perf. Ella Fitzgerald)
Perfect (Ed Sheeran)
Thinking out loud (Ed Sheeran)
A Thousand Years (Christina Perri)
Hello (Lionel Ritchie)
You send me (Sam Cooke)

ORCHESTRAL MUSIC

BACH: Air on the G String
BACH: Brandenburg Concerto 4 in G Major, Allegro
BACH: Cello Suite No. 1 - Prelude
Various **BEETHOVEN** sonatas
JEREMIAH CLARKE: Trumpet Voluntary in D major
DOHNÁNYI: Der Schleier der Pierrette, Op. 18: No. 4, Wedding Waltz
GRIEG: Lyric Pieces, Book 8, Op. 65: No. 6. Wedding-Day at Troidhaugen
HANDEL: March (from “Occasional Oratorio”)
HANDEL: Selections from Music for the Royal Fireworks

- HANDEL:** Selections from Water Music Suite
- MENDELSSOHN:** A Midsummer Night's Dream, incidental music, Op. 61 Wedding March
- MOZART:** Wedding March (from "Le nozze di Figaro"/Marriage of Figaro)
- PACHELBEL:** Canon in D
- PURCELL:** "Trumpet Tune and Air"
- RIMSKY-KORSAKOV:** Legend of the Invisible City of Kitezh: Wedding Procession
- TCHAIKOVSKY:** "Waltz of the Flowers" (Nutcracker Suite)
- VIVALDI:** Cello Concerto in C Minor No. 1 BWV 401, Adagio
- VIVALDI:** Cello Concerto in C Minor No. 1 BWV 401, Allegro ma non troppo
- VIVALDI:** Cello Concerto in C Minor No. 1 BWV 401, Allegro non molto
- VIVALDI:** Four Seasons – Autumn
- VIVALDI:** Four Seasons – Spring
- VIVALDI:** Four Seasons – Summer
- VIVALDI:** Four Seasons – Winter
- VIVALDI:** Guitar Concerto in D Major No. 1 BWV 1041, Allegro assai
- VIVALDI:** Guitar Concerto in D Major No. 1 BWV 1041, Allegro moderato
- VIVALDI:** Guitar Concerto in D Major No. 1 BWV 1041, Andante
- VIVALDI:** Oboe Concerto in D Minor No. 1 BWV 1059, Adagio
- VIVALDI:** Oboe Concerto in D Minor Op. 9 No. 2, Adagio
- VIVALDI:** Violin Concerto in A Minor, Largo
- WAGNER:** Bridal Chorus from Lohengrin (also known as "Here Comes the Bride")

Please type additional/alternative music titles here (optional):

Enter your own music choice/s here.