

HOW TO CHOOSE MUSIC FOR A FUNERAL SERVICE IN AUSTRALIA

Brief

If you're planning a funeral and wondering what kind of music is appropriate, this guide is for you. The short answer is: ANYTHING GOES!

On the following pages, I share the most played music at services I was a celebrant at over the last year and a full list of every song every played.

LISTEN TO THE PLAYLIST

[Click this link](#) to listen to a playlist featuring 200+ songs that featured at funeral ceremonies featured in this data set.

Most Played Artists

The table below lists the most played artists from the sample set. **Frank Sinatra** is currently the most played artist, with his 1969 hit *My Way* a popular choice. **Pink's** recent hit, *Cover Me In Sunshine*, released in 2021 is the most contemporary track on the list. **Slim Dusty** was the most played Australian artists, narrowly missing this top 10 list, coming 13th.

Top 10 Artists	
Artist	Number of Plays
Frank Sinatra	6
Fleetwood Mac	5
Pink	5
Celine Dion	5
James Taylor	5
Pink Floyd	4
Rod Stewart	4
Andrea Bocelli	4
The Eagles	3
Dire Straits	3
Total	173 Unique Artists Played Over The Last Year

About The Data

Between 2025 and June 2026, as an independent celebrant in Perth, Western Australia, I performed as a celebrant for over 100 services, in partnership with all of Perth's best funeral homes including: Bare., Bowra & O'Dea, Gift of Grace, Mayfair, Purslowe & Chipper, Prosser Scott, Simple Price Wise & Simplicity Funerals. For 56 services, I produced an accompanying run sheet, and this data is from those services. I almost never offer song suggestions to families during consultations – so this list is a representation of what families chose on their own accord. The average age of the deceased in this data set is 71, the youngest was 20 and the oldest was 100.

Most Played Songs

The table below lists the most played songs. The most played song was *Amazing Grace*, however this song was played in a variety of versions, performed by; **Judy Collins**, **Aretha Franklin**, **Susan Boyle** and **David Nevue**. **Rod Stewart's** *Sailing* and **Frank Sinatra's** *My Way* came in for a tie-first for most played song by original artist.

Top 10 Songs (Various Versions*)	
Song	Number of Plays
Amazing Grace*	5
Somewhere Over The Rainbow*	4
Sailing	4
My Way	4
Stairway To Heaven	3
Adagio For Strings*	3
My Heart Will Go On	3
Going Home*	3
Wish You Were Here	3
You Raise Me Up*	3
Total	211 Unique Songs Played Over The Last Year

How To Choose Music

The key to choosing music for a funeral service in Australia is to let go of *expectations*. The truth is, anything goes, and the more authentically it reflects your loved one, the better it'll be. So let go of external pressure. Generally speaking, the music selected can be from any era, though there is an observable tendency to choose classics over contemporary pieces.

With that said, the music selection is best to compliment the vibe for each part of the service. Typically, the slideshow and entry can have the most up-beat music, the reflection and committal the more emotive tunes and the exit a tune to set the tone for the time in the condolence lounge or wake.

More?

On the following pages, I've included the FULL LIST of all the songs played at funeral services in Australia. If you do need help choosing music, please reach out to your funeral home arranger or celebrant for more recommendations.

The Full List

Artist - Track	Number of Plays
Frank Sinatra	6
My Way	4
Fly Me To The Moon	2
Fleetwood Mac	5
Albatross	2
Songbird	2
Landslide	1
Pink	5
Cover Me In Sunshine	2
When I Get There	1
Just Give Me A Reason	1
Raise Your Glass	1
Celine Dion	5
My Heart Will Go On	3
Immortality	2
James Taylor	5
Shower The People	2
How Sweet It Is To Be Loved By You	2
Fire And Rain	1
Pink Floyd	4
Wish You Were Here	3
Shine On You Crazy Diamond	1
Rod Stewart	4
Sailing	4
Andrea Bocelli	4
Time To Say Goodbye	2
Hallelujah	1
The Prayer	1
The Eagles	3
Hotel California	2
Waste Time	1

Artist - Track	Number of Plays
Dire Straits	3
Brothers In Arms	1
Walk Of My Life	1
Going Home	1
Dean Martin	3
For The Good Times	1
Volare	1
That's Amore	1
Slim Dusty	3
Clancy Of The Overflow	1
Waltzing Matilda	1
Lights On The Hill	1
Sarah MacLacian	3
Angel	2
I Will Remember You	1
The Beatles	3
Here Comes The Sun	1
Let It Be	1
In My Life	1
Elvis Presley	3
American Trilogy	1
Take My Hand Precious Lord	1
Can't Help Falling In Love	1
Eva Cassidy	3
Danny Boy	1
Somewhere Over The Rainbow	1
Fields Of Gold	1
London Philharmonic Orchestra	3
Adagio For Strings	2
Pachabel Canon in D	1
Willie Nelson	3
Always On My Mind	1
On The Road Again	1
Just Breathe	1
Johnny Cash	2
We'll Meet Again	1
Danny Boy	1
Robert Flack	2
No Tears	1
Killing Me Softly	1
Van Morrison	2
Have I Told You Lately That I Love You	1
Brown Eyed Girl	1
Dean Lewis	2

Artist - Track	Number of Plays
How Do I Say Goodbye	2
John Denver	2
Take Me Home Country Roads	2
Glen Miller	2
In The Mood	1
Begin the Beguine	1
The Seekers	2
The Carnival Is Over	2
Louis Armstrong	2
What A Wonderful World	2
Israel Kamakawiwo'ole	2
Somewhere Over The Rainbow	2
Mac Miller	2
Dunno	1
Best Day Ever	1
Bee Gees	2
To Love Somebody	1
How Deep Is Your Love	1
Mark Knopfler	2
Going Home	2
John Paul Young	2
Love Is In The Air	2
Metallica	2
Nothing Else Matters	2
Josh Groban	2
You Raise Me Up	2
Pavarotti	2
Tosca E Lucevan	1
Nesum Dorma	1
The Verve	2
Lucy Man	1
Bitter Sweet Symphony	1
Phil Collins	2
You'll Be In My Heart	1
I Wish It Would Rain Down	1
Gurrumul	2
Wiyathul	1
Bapa	1
Kenny G	2
Morning	1
If	1
Led Zeppelin	2
Stairway To Heaven	2
Judy Collins	2

Artist - Track	Number of Plays
Amazing Grace	2
Neil Young	1
Harvest Moon	1
St Germain	1
Sure Thing	1
Piano Tribute Players	1
Wind Beneath My Wings - Instrumental	1
Ed Sheeran	1
Visiting Hours	1
Tiesto	1
Adagio For Strings	1
Elan	1
Ôsmy Svetadiel	1
Neil Diamond	1
Sweet Caroline	1
Ella Holcomb	1
I Will Carry You	1
Cyndi Lauper	1
Girls Just Want To Have Fun	1
Aretha Franklin	1
Amazing Grace	1
Amy Winehouse	1
Back To Black	1
Eminem	1
Mocking Bird - Instrumental	1
Warren Zevon	1
Werewolves Of London	1
Eric Clapton	1
Tears In Heaven	1
Moazrt	1
Requiem	1
Eric Idle	1
Always Look On The Bright Side Of Life	1
Pearl Jam	1
Just Breathe	1
Eric Prydz	1
Call On Me	1
Queen	1
These Were The Days Of Our Lives	1
Eurythmics	1
There Must Be An Angel	1
Sam Smith	1
Lay Me Down	1
Audrey Assad	1

Artist - Track	Number of Plays
Abide By Me	1
T'at	1
Ilkey Moor	1
Faith Evans	1
I'll Be Missing You	1
Deee-Lite	1
Grove Is In The Heart	1
Fat Boy Slim	1
Praise You	1
Train	1
When I Look To The Sky	1
Fearless Soul	1
I Just Gotta Say Thank You	1
Wiz Khalifa	1
See You Again	1
Ava Maria	1
Harp	1
Michael Jackson	1
We Are The World	1
Florence And The Machine	1
Cosmic Love	1
N-Trance	1
Set You Free	1
Foo Fighters	1
Home	1
Paul Kelly	1
How To Make Gravy	1
Avicii	1
The Nights	1
Peter Hollens	1
I Will Stand By You	1
Franz Schubert	1
Ava Maria	1
Crowded House	1
Don't Dream It's Over	1
Gerry And The Pacemakers	1
Flower On The Water	1
Randy Newman	1
You've Got A Friend In Me	1
Acoustic Guitar Guy	1
Back In Black	1
Dani And Lizzy	1
Dancing In The Sky	1
Greenday	1

Artist - Track	Number of Plays
Good Riddance	1
Simon & Garfunkel	1
Bridge Over Troubled Waters	1
Guitar Dreamers	1
Stairway To Heaven	1
Supertramp	1
Take The Long Way Home	1
Guns N' Roses	1
Patience	1
Alex Warren	1
One More I Love You	1
Beethoven	1
Moonlight Sonata 1st Movement	1
The Police	1
Every Breath You Take	1
Handel	1
Messiah	1
The Triffids	1
Wide Open Road	1
Harold Faltermeyer	1
Top Gun Anthem	1
Tom Petty	1
Won't Back Down	1
Helen Reddy	1
I Am Woman	1
Anne Murray	1
May I Have This Dance For The Rest Of My Life	1
Ingerbert	1
The Last Waltz	1
Westlife	1
You Raise Me Up	1
Isaac Mathews	1
Heaven Could Wait For You	1
Marc Scibilia	1
More To This	1
Billie Eilish	1
The Party's Over	1
Vika And Linda	1
The Parting Song	1
Black Eyed Peas	1
I Got A Feeling	1
Mo' Horizons	1
Yes Baby Yes	1

Artist - Track	Number of Plays
Jeff Beck	1
Nessun Dorma	1
Monty Python	1
The Brighter Side Of Life	1
Jeff Buckley	1
Hallelujah	1
Nat King Cole	1
Unforgettable	1
Jerry Goldsmith	1
Star Trek Voyager	1
Norman Greenbourne	1
Spirit In The Sky	1
Jim Reeves	1
May The Good Lord Bless & Keep You	1
Claude Debussy	1
Clair De Lune	1
Jimmy Scott	1
Miss Me But Let Me Go	1
Peter Allen	1
Quiet Please There's A Lady On The Stage	1
Black Label Society	1
The Last Goodbye	1
Cold Chissel	1
Forever Now	1
Bob Dylan	1
Like A Rolling Stone	1
Collabro	1
Stars	1
John Smith	1
From His Window	1
Powderfinger	1
These Days	1
John Williamson	1
Flower On The Water	1
Rachmaninoff	1
Pinao Concerto #2	1
Brad Paisley & Dolly Parton	1
When I Get Where I'm Going	1
Robbie Williams	1
Angels	1
Johnny Mathis	1
Twelfth Of Never	1
Robert Miles	1

Artist - Track	Number of Plays
Children	1
Bruce Springsteen	1
Dancing In The Dark	1
Rolling Stones	1
You Can't Always Get What You Want	1
Cosmic Psychos	1
Nice Day To Go To The Pub	1
Darude	1
Sandstorm	1
Abba	1
Dancing Queen	1
David Nevue	1
Amazing Grace	1
Julian Bean	1
Recuredos De La Alhambra	1
Steve Harley	1
Make Me Smile	1
Katrina & The Waves	1
Walking On Sunshine	1
Susan Boyle	1
Amazing Grace	1
Bryan Adams	1
Everything I Do	1
The Animals	1
We've Got To Get Out Of This Place	1
Kid Cudi	1
Up Up And Away	1
The Cure	1
Lullaby	1
Kodaline	1
Brother	1
The Hollies	1
He Ain't Heavy He's My Brother	1
Kyle Hume	1
If I Would Have Known	1
The Pretenders	1
Hymn To Her	1
Kylie Minogue	1
Can't Get You Out Of My Head	1
The Tabernacle Choir	1
Abide With Me	1
Lady Gaga	1
Hold My Hand	1
Diddy	1

Artist - Track	Number of Plays
I'll Be Missing You	1
Burl Ives	1
Royal Telephone	1
Tina Turner	1
Simply The Best	1
Lee Keragnah	1
Boys From The Bush	1
Tones And I	1
Cloudy Day	1
Cat Stevens	1
Father & Son	1
U2	1
One	1
London Symphony Orchestra	1
Air On A G String	1
Vince Gill	1
Go Rest High On That Mountain	1
Al Bano & Romina Power	1
Felicita	1
Weslife	1
Queen Of My Heart	1
Mac Davis	1
Hard To Be Humble	1
Disturbed	1
The Sound Of Silence	1
Chase Eagleson	1
Shadow Of The Day	1
Youth Group	1
Forever Young	1
Mark Hudson	1
When She Looks My Way	1
Donna Taggart	1
Jealous Of Angels	1
Choir Of Kings	1
Ave Verum Corpus, Moazart	1
The Waifs	1
Lighthouse	1
Matthew Hindson Hush	1
The Stars Above Us All	1
Dusty Springfield	1
Son Of A Preacher Man	1
Cilia Black	1
You're My World	1
Judy Garland	1

Artist - Track	Number of Plays
Somewhere Over The Rainbow (blank)	1
(blank)	
Grand Total	243