



THE MARRIAGE OF

Natalie Werner

AND

Richard Cook

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL

SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2026

1.00 PM

A Note from Natalie and Richard

Music has been at the core of our relationship from the first day we met, so choosing the music for this service was one of the more challenging decisions of the wedding planning process. In fact, it took us nearly the entirety of our nine-month engagement. (Those who know Richard's musical tastes may guess that none of his top ten choices were wedding-appropriate!)

Even so, we feel that the four pieces we decided on reflect us perfectly. *Laudate Dominum* is the final piece on Richard's (soon-to-be-released) Marcel Dupré CD, and has been a favourite of ours since we started learning it with the Cathedral Choir. Herbert Howells' *Hymn to St Cecilia* is one of Richard's favourites — thankfully, it is wedding appropriate — and Franz Biebl's *Ave Maria* is special to both of us, as we have enjoyed singing it together many times. Finally, *Jubilate Deo* by William Walton felt like the perfect anthem to end the service, and we chose it as it is a particular St Edmundsbury Cathedral Choir favourite, following our recent tour to Sweden.

We'd like to thank the Cathedral Choir for their generosity in singing at this service. We cannot think of a better way to celebrate the start of our marriage than with the choir that brought us together. A particular thanks to Claudia and Dan for all the work that went into today's music.

In addition to the musicians, we want to thank the Canon Pastor and Sub Dean, Matthew Vernon, for helping us put this service together and for marrying us, and the Dean, Joe Hawes, and Canon Precentor, Katy Cunliffe, for being part of our special day. A huge thank you, also, to Sue Cockram for her generous donation of the flower pedestals in the Cathedral today, and to Liz Steele for the confetti which she has, fittingly, handmade from Edmund Roses.

And finally, a thank you to our community here at St Edmundsbury Cathedral. We have been overwhelmed with support ever since we announced our engagement, and we feel incredibly lucky to be part of such a thriving community. Thank you for all you have done to make us feel so supported.

Photography, Filming and Livestreaming

- For safeguarding reasons, as we have the Cathedral Choir singing today, please do not take photographs or video recordings during the service.
- Please note that this service will be livestreamed on YouTube. If you do not want to appear in this, please inform a warden or verger.
- Please ensure your mobile phones are turned to silent.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

When invited, please stand for the entrance of the bride, during which the choir sings

Laudate Dominum

Words: Psalm 117

Music: Marcel Dupré, 1886-1971

All remain standing as the Dean gives

The Welcome

God is love, and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.

1 John 4.16

God of wonder and of joy:
grace comes from you,
and you alone are the source of life and love.
Without you, we cannot please you;
without your love, our deeds are worth nothing.
Send your Holy Spirit,
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,
that we may worship you now
with thankful hearts
and serve you always with willing minds;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

The Hymn

How shall I sing that majesty
which angels do admire?
Let dust in dust and silence lie;
sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.
Thousands of thousands stand around
thy throne, O God most high;
ten thousand times ten thousand sound
thy praise; but who am I?

Thy brightness unto them appears,
whilst I thy footsteps trace;
a sound of God comes to my ears,
but they behold thy face.
They sing, because thou art their Sun;
Lord, send a beam on me;
for where heaven is but once begun
there alleluias be.

Enlighten with faith's light my heart,
inflame it with love's fire;
then shall I sing and bear a part
with that celestial choir.
I shall, I fear, be dark and cold,
with all my fire and light;
yet when thou dost accept their gold,
Lord, treasure up my mite.

How great a being, Lord, is thine,
which doth all beings keep!
Thy knowledge is the only line
to sound so vast a deep.
Thou art a sea without a shore,
a sun without a sphere;
thy time is now and evermore,
thy place is everywhere.

Words: John Mason, c. 1645-1694

Music: Coe Fen, Kenneth Naylor, 1931-1991

All sit as the Canon Pastor and Sub Dean reads

The Preface The Declarations

The Canon Pastor and Sub Dean says to the congregation

First, I am required to ask anyone present who knows a reason why these persons may not lawfully marry, to declare it now.

The Canon Pastor and Sub Dean says to the couple

The vows you are about to take are to be made in the presence of God, who is judge of all and knows all the secrets of our hearts; therefore if either of you knows a reason why you may not lawfully marry, you must declare it now.

The Canon Pastor and Sub Dean says to Richard

Richard, will you take Natalie to be your wife?
Will you love her, comfort her, honour and protect her, and,
forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall
live?

He answers

I will.

The Canon Pastor and Sub Dean says to Natalie

Natalie, will you take Richard to be your husband?
Will you love him, comfort him, honour and protect him, and,
forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall
live?

She answers

I will.

The Canon Pastor and Sub Dean says to the congregation

Will you, the families and friends of Richard and Natalie,
support and uphold them in their marriage now and in the
years to come?

All

We will.

The Collect

God our Father,
from the beginning
you have blessed creation with abundant life.
Pour out your blessings upon Richard and Natalie,
that they may be joined in mutual love
and companionship,
in holiness and commitment to each other.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All

Amen.

All remain seated as Stephen Tilton reads

A Reading

My beloved speaks and says to me:
'Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away;
for now 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 turtle-dove
is heard in our land.
The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.
Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away.
Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm;
for love is strong as death,
passion fierce as the grave.
Its flashes are flashes of fire,
a raging flame.
Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can floods drown it.
If one offered for love
all the wealth of one's house,
it would be utterly scorned.'

Song of Solomon 2.10-13, 8.6-7

The Canon Pastor and Sub Dean gives

The Sermon

All remain seated as the choir sings

A Hymn for St Cecilia

Words: Ursula Vaughan Williams, 1911-2007

Music: Herbert Howells, 1892-1983

¶ The Marriage

All remain seated for

The Vows

The Giving of Rings

The Proclamation

The Canon Pastor and Sub Dean addresses the congregation.

In the presence of God, and before this congregation,
Richard and Natalie have given their consent
and made their marriage vows to each other.
They have declared their marriage by the joining of hands
and by the giving and receiving of rings.
I therefore proclaim that they are husband and wife.

The Canon Pastor and Sub Dean joins their right hands together and says

Those whom God has joined together
let no one put asunder.

The Dean gives

The Blessing of the Marriage

Blessed are you, O Lord our God,
for you have created joy and gladness,
pleasure and delight, love, peace and fellowship.
Pour out the abundance of your blessing
upon Richard and Natalie in their new life together.
Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts
and a crown upon their heads.
Bless them in their work and in their companionship;
awake and asleep, in joy and in sorrow, in life and in death.
Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that banquet
where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home.
We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Dean says to the couple

God the Father,
God the Son,
God the Holy Spirit,
bless, preserve and keep you;
the Lord mercifully grant you the riches of his grace,
that you may please him both in body and soul,
and, living together in faith and love,
may receive the blessings of eternal life.

All **Amen.**

The Registration of Marriage

During the signing of the registers the choir sings

Ave Maria

Words: Luke 1

Music: Franz Biebl, 1906-2001

Please remain quiet to enjoy the music.

All remain seated for

The Prayers

The Canon Precentor leads prayers for Richard and Natalie.

Faithful God,
holy and eternal,
source of life and spring of love,
we thank and praise you for bringing
Richard and Natalie to this day,
and we pray for them.
Lord of life and love:

All **hear our prayer.**

May their marriage be life-giving and life-long,
enriched by your presence and strengthened by your grace;
may they bring comfort and confidence to each other
in faithfulness and trust.
Lord of life and love:

All **hear our prayer.**

May the hospitality of their home
bring refreshment and joy to all around them;
may their love overflow to neighbours in need
and embrace those in distress.
Lord of life and love:

All **hear our prayer.**

May they discern in your word
order and purpose for their lives;
and may the power of your Holy Spirit
lead them in truth and defend them in adversity.
Lord of life and love:

All **hear our prayer.**

May they nurture others with devotion,
so that all may grow in body, mind and spirit
and come at last to the end of their lives
with hearts content and in joyful anticipation of heaven.
Lord of life and love:

All **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude with

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

All remain seated as the choir sings

Jubilate Deo

Words: Psalm 100

Music: William Walton, 1902-1983

All stand as the Dean gives

The Blessing

All **God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,
defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.**

The bride, groom and wedding party process out as Dan Soper plays

The Organ Voluntary

Finale from Organ Symphony No. 6

Charles-Marie Widor, 1844-1937

Please enjoy listening to the organ voluntary before making your way out to the Cathedral Garth for the Drinks Reception. Music will be provided by jazz musicians, Chris Ingham and Malcolm Creese. All are welcome.

Best Man

Andrew Wyatt

Maid of Honour

Adele Werner

Groomsmen

Nicholas Freestone

Timothy Parsons

Bridesmaids

Sammie Van Norstrand

Cressida Parsons

Musicians

The Cathedral Choir

Claudia Grinnell, Director of Music

Dan Soper, Organist