

[Below] All things brass is Finlay Hetherington's speciality



PLANNING *entertainment*

Classical music is dreamy, elegant and sophisticated. But if your musician can also turn their hand to pop, jazz or folk tunes, you'll get double the applause from your guests

Words by *Nicola Smith*

TOP TEN CLASSICAL

1 FINLAY HETHERINGTON

Remember that amazing scene in *Love Actually* when the trumpeters pop up and play as Peter and Juliet get married? Finlay Hetherington can make this a reality. "I've played classical music at every stage of a wedding, from a trumpet 'voluntary' or fanfare at the bridal procession, to an aria during the signing of the register," he says. "I've also performed a selection of upbeat classical favourites during the drinks reception." He can put together a powerful brass ensemble, too, for a bit more oomph. finlayhetherington.com



[Above] Louise Sheridan Soprano's skills will steal hearts

Orchestra. Their astounding melodies, played on the flute, oboe, clarinet, French horn and bassoon, will add another dimension to your w-day entertainment.

The fivesome has a broad repertoire – check out its adaptation of Gershwin's fabulous 'Rhapsody in Blue'. It always gets the toes tapping. www.classicalmusiciansscotland.com

3 LOUISE SHERIDAN SOPRANO

Few things can move us quite like a beautiful singing voice, and one woman who can bring that real sense of emotion to your day is Louise Sheridan. "Having a classical singer at your wedding adds another really special memory of the day for the couple and their guests," says the soprano. "I feel so lucky to share in that." Louise's song list stretches from popular arias to heartfelt ballads and she can help you tailor your favourite pieces to certain parts of the day. www.louisesherdansoprano.com

4 SAX SELECT

"Playing at a wedding is more than a pleasure – it's a privilege!" So says Kenneth Thomson, the talent behind Sax Select. Hire him to perform at your special day and your guests are in for a treat. Kenneth has over



[Below] Expect a five-star performance from Sirocco Winds

20 years' experience and is regarded as one of the best in the biz – so much so that he already has wedding bookings for 2021! Ready to kick-start the party? "After-dinner performances can include an hour of house dance music as well as popular hits," he promises. If that's the case, you'll have to race us to the dancefloor!

www.saxselect.com

5 ANDY LUCAS

We could hardly leave the piano out of the mix, could we? What's great about having someone like Andy Lucas playing the old Joanna at your do is that he will take requests so everyone gets to hear a favourite hit. "I hand out request slips during the drinks reception or meal and the result of this helps create a fun and lively atmosphere," he promises. "I play pop, jazz and blues as well as classical works. I like to vary my sets and include songs that people expect to hear, as well as some that are not traditional piano pieces." www.lucaspiano.co.uk →



[Below] Let Andy Lucas take it away on the piano



[Above] Kenneth of Sax Select is a real talent

2 SIROCCO WINDS

Sirocco Winds is a dynamic professional wind quintet represented by Classical Musicians Scotland. Formed at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in 2012, the members have performed with the likes of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Scottish National

6 HUNTER-MEIERHOFER

Hunter-Meierhofer comprises Maureen on clarsach (a triangular harp that's a traditional instrument in Wales, Scotland and Ireland) and Roddy on violin, and when they play together they sweep everyone off their feet. The duo are experts in all the best-known Celtic songs but can easily turn their hand to modern pop and dance anthems. "We often play a range of classical music for the ceremony followed by folk music and other styles to create a striking variety of sounds for the reception," says Maureen.

www.hunter-meierhofer.com



[Below] Hunter-Meierhofer in action

7 MEREDITH McCRINDLE

You can recognise the melodic plucking of a harp from a mile off. It has magical pulling power, and the musician will always have a small crowd around them, gazing in wonder at their talents. The ethereal sounds the



[Below] Tuesday of Clarsach and Song is happy to learn a Nirvana hit for you

instrument makes are also perfectly suited to a wedding celebration, and Meredith McCrindle has the skills to enchant your friends and family. "Classical music will always bring a touch of elegance, especially when played on the harp," she says. "Music is at the core of all our celebrations, especially the most important one – your wedding. I always encourage my couples to take this opportunity to use their choice of music to reflect their 'style,' be it traditional, modern, unique or classical."

www.meredithmccrindle.com

8 CLARSACH AND SONG

"Classical or traditional harp music is delicate, and even a little mystical, so it sets a beautiful

tone whenever it is heard in a wedding ceremony," says Tuesday McDonough, the talent behind Clarsach and Song. And she's right: have you ever heard the traditional Scottish instrument being played? It's utterly magical. Of course, a few established tunes will hit all the right notes, but it's Tuesday's talent in customisation that truly sets her apart. "I'm very adaptable, and am always keen to fit in with whatever the couple want. I have even been asked to perform a song by Nirvana – it was great!"

0131 667 6748

9 AMARONE MUSIC

With countless weddings under their belt, Amarone Music's Siobhán (on flute) and Emma (on violin) are more than equipped to deliver an elegant musical touch to your w-day entertainment. "We are classically trained musicians, so we can play or arrange anything you request. What really makes us special is that we can apply our expertise to any genre, so you could just as easily have standards like Pachelbel's 'Canon' played alongside something by Frank Sinatra, or a bit of Rihanna next to movie scores such as *The Greatest Showman*," explains Siobhán. The duo can also enlist the talents of a guitarist or pianist if you'd like to add to the musical stylings of the day.

www.amaronemusic.co.uk

10 MACLEOD HARPISTS

Sisters Bethany and Hannah Macleod are a clarsach duet based in the central belt. As well as performing for royal visits and political events, the sisters



Photo: tomclairnsphotography.com



[Above] Meredith McCrindle will have guests in the palm of her hand [Left] Amarone Music is made up of Siobhán on flute and Emma on violin, but there's also the option of bringing in a guitarist if your playlist requires it

specialise in weddings and love nothing more than creating a bespoke playlist for their couples. "We play mostly traditional romantic songs by request," says Bethany. Ed Sheeran fans will fall head over heels for the girls' cover of 'Perfect'. Imagine walking down the aisle to that. There won't be a dry eye in the house, we guarantee it.

www.macleodharpists.co.uk ♥



[Below] Macleod Harpists will surprise and delight