

## **Guidance on Music -Leavers 2024**

Preparation for the Leavers' Service does pay dividends. It gives pupils confidence to take part fully on the day, while enriching learning experience and school ethos at the same time. The backing tracks, sheet music and lyrics can be found at:

[2024 Primary School Leavers Services - Diocese of Chichester Education \(anglican.org\)](https://www.anglican.org/2024-Primary-School-Leavers-Services-Diocese-of-Chichester-Education)

Please use these not only in preparation for the Leavers Celebrations but also in assemblies and at other times.

*If you are unfamiliar with any of the songs, follow the links below to a pre-recorded version with words and music (but please use our backing track to rehearse as there may be slight differences in tempo).*

### **01 I, The Lord of Sea And Sky (Here I am Lord)**

This song, based on words from the prophet Isaiah, recognises that we are all included in God's plan and that, even when we feel at our most helpless, there is something good that we can do. It is a song of hope and love, and we will sing it during the procession of the Bible and Candle, followed by the banners.

[I, the Lord of Sea and Sky \(Here I Am, Lord - 3vv+refrain\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vv+refrain)

### **02 The Lord's My Shepherd.**

Psalm 23 is a really precious text to learn and know and this version is particularly memorable. It reminds us of how God is with us in our hearts and speaks to us in the words of scripture. There is a descant in the chorus for confident singers. The verses should be sung thoughtfully and the chorus enthusiastically.

[The Lord's My Shepherd - Stuart Townend \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=StuartTownend)

### **03 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)**

**In services with a choir, the choir school will sing the first chorus and verse, with all schools joining in at second chorus. If no school is able to lead as a choir at your service, all schools will sing the whole song.**

Written in 2011, this is a great worship song for any time or occasion. It reminds us not only of the psalm on which it is based but also the words of the hymn *Amazing Grace*. If you already know it, you'll find there can be slight variations in performance. We have simplified it for our needs.

[10,000 Reasons \(Bless the Lord\) \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10000Reasons)

### **04 Hear My Prayer, O Lord**

This sung refrain is a way of joining in with and affirming each prayer that is read. The response is sung after each section of Looking back and Looking forward prayers, with quiet music as the prayers are read.

[Hear My Prayer - Maranatha Singers \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HearMyPrayer)

*(you tube version -first part only)*

### **05 Prayer Of St Richard**

This has become something of a theme song for us, since it connects particularly with Chichester Diocese, as St Richard was Bishop of Chichester in 1244. It is a prayer but it has a flowing melody and the chorus in particular can be sung joyfully and confidently.

### **06 My Lighthouse**

We have used this song before at the Leavers' Celebrations and it proved very popular. You need a good sense of rhythm and plenty of practice to get the best from it, without getting too hung up on the metaphor. It reinforces the message that Jesus is real and can be trusted. The song is pitched so that the verses are not too low. The chorus goes quite high but with plenty of breath and a bit of 'oomph', most will manage it! [backing track with guide vocals \(MP3\)](#)