

Ross Edmonds' Desert Island Discs



To continue our celebrations of the 75th Anniversary of [Desert Island Discs](#) in 2017, we are casting away another member of the [PS Programmes team](#) this week to the far-flung sandy shores of the BBC's mythical desert island.

Our castaway this week is... Ross Edmonds

[Ross](#) spends much of his life travelling around the world of conferences and workshops. It all started for Ross when he worked for British Airways for over a decade, representing the airline at a variety of internal and external events. This inspired him to become a full time Conference Facilitator and Presenter for a multitude of organisations in different sectors, and he now puts this experience to good use with PS Programmes, coaching others to present – ranging from helping clients with their 'storytelling' to presenting on a stage, to preparing and delivering pitches to win contracts, as well as helping clients develop their event content and flow for company conferences.

Ross' eight Desert Island Discs

Walking on Sunshine – Katrina & The Waves

Ross says: *An uplifting way to start. We used this song for a roadshow for a holiday company. It was one of the first events we had ever produced and presented, and the company had the confidence to go with us. Thankfully, it was a big success, and I still love hearing this song today.*

Nimrod – Edward Elgar

My parents used to play Elgar's Enigma variations to me as a child. It is to this day, my favourite piece of classical music. It's often thought of as a solemn piece of music, yet it was played at the opening of the London Olympics with enormous impact.

Days Like This – Van Morrison

I used to play this when I first met my wife Jana. I discovered she loved it as much as I did, and 'Van the Man' became one of many things we had in common. It reminds us that life has its ups and downs, and that we all have 'days like this'.

Jupiter – Gustav Holst

Jupiter is the 'bringer of jollity', impressive and cheerful. This piece of music has so many components, from bold to soft, the centre piece of which is the hymn I used to sing in my church as a choir boy, 'I vow to thee my country'. Rugby fans and choir boys are amongst many who will know and love this music!

For All We Know – The Carpenters

I could listen to Karen Carpenter's voice all day long. This is one of their hits which wasn't written by Richard Carpenter, yet this version stands out from the rest because of her purity. Play this in a large venue (before anyone comes in!), and you'll know what I mean.

Long Way Home – Supertramp

I was doing a number of events for a hotel company, and driving between the locations. 'Breakfast in America' was the CD in the car at the time, and I found myself playing it every day, as I drove around the country. It drove me mad, but this is just one track from a brilliant album.

Forever Man – Eric Clapton

I have to have an Eric Clapton song somewhere on my list. He used to live locally to me, and his mother came to many of the concerts, from the village hall (as 'Eddie & the Earthquakes') to the large concert venues. 'Forever Man' was recently released as a compilation album, and he still brings something fresh and new to his performances. That's something worth remembering.

Somebody to love – George Michael & Queen

With this final song, I get to have one of the greatest British rock bands and one of the greatest singer/songwriters. George sang this at the Freddie Mercury Tribute concert at Wembley, and rose to the occasion with what he said was one of his proudest moments. Life is short, so I want to make the most of my time here, before I'm cast away on my island!

Ross' top pick

I would have to save – Edward Elgar, Nimrod. It's both moving and uplifting.



Book choice and luxury item

In addition to the *Complete Works of Shakespeare* and the *Bible*, Ross would take *Middlemarch* by George Eliot. *“This will remind me of all the different aspects of life, some of which I’ll miss, and some I definitely won’t.”*

Ross’ luxury item would be a painting set. *“I’ve never painted before, but always wanted to, so this is my chance. I’m a mixture of left and right handed, and this is something I would do with both hands.”*

Read about our previous PS Programmes castaways [Rasheed Ogunlaru](#), [Tom York](#) and [Ian Hawkins](#).