

WEDDING MUSIC GUIDE



Music is an integral part of the wedding ceremony. Music has the power to convey the depths of God's love for us, to unite the assembly in song, and to express the worship and prayer of those who gather to celebrate your special day.

We ask that you respect these music guidelines and adhere to them.

Contemporary Music *Popular (or secular) songs are best for the reception & dance.*

A good criteria for judging the appropriateness of music for your wedding celebration are:

1) Does it reflect the Christian understanding of the marriage covenant?

2) Does it offer worship to God?

If you answer "no" to the previous questions, it's NOT appropriate for church.

St. Luke's approves of any music found in our *Breaking Bread missals* or music found on *OCP Publications* (www.ocp.org).

Prelude Prelude music should foster an atmosphere of prayer and reverential reflection while members of the assembly are gathering and being seated. Several selections may be used; combining instrumental as well as appropriate vocal pieces. Absolutely **NO secular music** is to be played in church.

Seating of the grandparents and parents must be factored into the prelude music. Groom will start seating grandparents and parents at 1:25 so **prelude music is completed by 1:30**. Please let your ushers know to seat guests using outside aisles during this time.

Procession/(Recessional) Music Suggested songs to be played during the bridesmaids' & bride's procession:

- Canon in D (J. Pachelbel)
- Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (J. S. Bach)
- Trumpet Tune (H. Purcell / J. Clarke)
- Trumpet Voluntary (J. Clarke)
- Ode to Joy (L. Beethoven)

Opening song (optional) After the bride has processed in, an opening song out of the hymnal could be sung. This engages your family and friends that have gathered on your special day.

Gloria is sung for a Mass.

Responsorial Psalm Psalms 33, 34, 103, 112, 128, 145, and 148 are very appropriate for weddings. The psalm should be led by the cantor from the ambo. It's helpful to put the refrain in your worship handout.

Gospel Acclamation The gospel acclamation should be sung.

Unity Candle This practice does not exist any more due to a change made by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Presentation/Preparation of the Gifts

Please choose a song out of the hymnal so the congregation can participate in song.

Service Music

Heritage Mass and Mass of Creation are two commonly used service music selections. Many Catholics are familiar with the tunes and can participate.

Communion

The song/s chosen during communion should be out of the hymnal and Eucharistic in nature. It is important that the congregation be able to participate in song.

Recessional

**See Processional songs

Musicians If you need a pianist or cantor, Cari Higgins will be able to make suggestions of experienced musicians. Musician rate is set by each individual. An *average* price for a Wedding Mass in this area would be \$200 for accompanist and \$175 for cantor.

****Please pay musicians before your ceremony.**

**Any questions, please contact Cari Higgins, Music Director
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