

MUSIC GUIDELINES

You will make a commitment during the wedding liturgy, to love one another as God loves us. Your love for one another will be a reflection of God's love toward His people. Within the liturgy, you seek God's blessing and help in your married life while offering honor, praise, and thanksgiving to Him. The music selected should contribute to and foster the sacramental nature of this celebration. The music should reflect the reverence and dignity befitting the sacrament of marriage and the liturgy.

Music is not a separate entity that is "plugged" into various "spots". Rather, it is an integral part of the liturgy that performs a liturgical function. It should help unify, not hinder, the flow of the liturgy. Music should promote an atmosphere of prayer for those gathered to celebrate with you.

Vatican II Council called the people to full, active participation in celebrating the liturgy. Consequently, there are several sections of the liturgy in which the people are entitled to participate, whether the part is sung or recited. The friends and relatives you have invited are not merely spectators at an "event". They have come to share in your joy, to be involved, to witness, and to pray with you.

Therefore, the text of the songs you choose will be of major importance and deserve careful consideration. There are four general types of wedding music:

- A. Music composed as liturgical music
- B. Popular music, which speaks directly of the religious dimensions of love of the Christian concept of life.
- C. Popular music, which does not speak directly of this religious dimension, but implies it.
- D. Popular music, which refers only to the physical and emotional dimensions of love.

Types A and B may be used in the liturgy of your wedding ceremony. Type C may not be used within the liturgy itself, but may be used as prelude music. Please remember that prelude music is considered all selections played before the processional begins. The processional, or entrance of family and attendants, is the official start of your ceremony. Type D music is not acceptable for use in church at a wedding liturgy.

Your Church Wedding Coordinator must approve all music according to Church rules and/or policies. No CDs are allowed in the church or chapel. The following questions may serve as a guide to decision making about your wedding music:

1. Does the music you intend to use expand and deepen an appreciation of the depths of Christian marriage?
2. Is the music expressive of your Christian faith and that of the people celebrating with you?
3. Do the selections fit the part of the ceremony where they are used, or are they showcase pieces that ignore liturgical requirements?
4. Does the music reflect creativity and the wise choice of options, while avoiding selections that have become threadbare form overuse?
5. Does your choice of music encourage participation of your guests?

THE PLACE OF MUSIC IN THE CATHOLIC WEDDING

Music, when used in our church, is a servant-art: It serves the Word of God and the sacramental action. Its purpose is to glorify God and to transform His people. You have two options on how you will celebrate the sacrament of marriage. The music you will need to select will depend on which option you choose. The first option is to celebrate the sacrament during the Mass; the second option is to celebrate the sacrament outside of Mass.

Music for a Marriage Ceremony during Nuptial Mass

Prelude Music
Entrance Procession
Responsorial Psalm
Gospel Acclamation
Unity Candle/Presentation of Gifts
Acclamations:
 Holy, Holy
 Memorial Acclamation
 Great Amen
 Lamb of God
Communion Song
Recessional

Music for Marriage Ceremony outside of Mass

Prelude Music
Entrance Procession
Responsorial Psalm
Unity Candle/Sign of Peace
Recessional

The following are some brief descriptions of musical additions that may assist you in your selections and planning:

Prelude Music – One or two musical selections may be performed just before the ceremony. They may either be instrumental or vocal. These selections often set the mood for the entire liturgy. Examples:

Ave Maria – Schubert or Gounod	Wind Beneath my Wings	The Lord’s Prayer – Malotte
Where There is Love – Haas	When Love is Found – Haas	Servant Song – Haas
You Light Up My Life	The Rose	Because You Love Me

Entrance Procession – Wedding marches such as those of Wagner and Mendelssohn were not composed for use within liturgy. In keeping with the principles of good liturgy from *Music in Catholic Worship*, these marches will not be used at St. Joseph church. Many appropriate selections are available. Examples:

Trumpet Voluntary – Purcell	Canon in D - Pachabel	Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring – Bach
Ode to Joy – Bach	Water Music – Handel	Hymne - Vangelis

Responsorial Psalm – Ideally, the responsorial psalm should be sung and should involve the congregation on the refrain. The soloist may serve as the cantor, leading the people on the refrain and singing the verses alone. Musical settings for all psalms are available. The Music Director can assist you in selecting one.

Gospel Acclamation – The Alleluia before the Gospel Reading is an acclamation; and if used, it is always to be sung. The soloist can serve as cantor, leading the congregation.

Unity Candle – The lighting of the Unity Candle, if used, may take place after the exchange of the rings. You may choose a solo or an instrumental piece. Examples:

Wherever You Go – Weston	Wedding Song – Stookey	Air from Water Music
When Love is Found – Haas	Where There is Love – Haas	Other instrumentals

Presentation of Gifts – Because of the limited amount of time, a short instrumental on the organ or piano would be best. If no song was sung after the exchange of rings, or during the lighting of the Unity Candle, one could consider a solo at this time. Again, it should not be too long.

Acclamations – The Acclamations include the *Holy Holy Holy*, *Memorial Acclamation*, *Great Amen* and *the Lamb of God* and should be sung if at all possible. Since this is not always feasible in some situations, please discuss the alternatives with the Music Director.

Communion Song – A communion song can either be sung by the soloist or can involve the congregation. There are many songs in category A that are appropriate at this time. Examples:

We are Many Parts – Haugen	We Give You Thanks – Haas	One Bread, One Body – Foley
Faith, Hope and Love – Haas	Where There is Love – Haas	Prayer of St. Francis – Sebastian Temple

Recessional – The recessional follows the final blessing. Examples:

Rondeau (Masterpiece Theater)	Hornpipe	Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring – Bach
Trumpet Tune – Purcell	Ode to Joy	Trumpet Voluntary - Purcell

Your Church Wedding Coordinator will provide contact information for the Pianist, Soloist, and Sound Technician.