

Planning Your Wedding Music

Music Planning

Music is an essential part of the Roman Catholic tradition. When well-planned, music can help you to set the perfect mood and evoke powerful emotions. The music chosen for the liturgy should be an expression of your faith as a couple beginning a new life together. The emphasis should be on sacred and liturgical music – music based on scriptural sources which focus on the union of the couple within the context of the family of Christ.

St. John of the Cross Parish employs a professional Director of Music Ministries who coordinates the music, musicians, and cantors for weddings. Couples are encouraged to meet with the Director of Music Ministries 4-6 months before their wedding date. Before this meeting, it is helpful for you to listen to some of the suggested music selections on the next two pages – most of which are available on iTunes or YouTube. The suggestions listed represent some of the best and most popular music for weddings. If you have musical desires that are not listed, please let the Director of Music Ministries know as early as possible to ensure that your requests find a liturgically appropriate place and that printed music is available.

When they meet with the Director of Music Ministries, the bride and groom (and sometimes an additional family member or friend who wishes to take part) will discuss their musical desires with the Director of Music Ministries and finalize their music plans. At that time, the Director of Music Ministries can play some music for you, help you make decisions about instruments that would complement your selections, help you select a cantor, and answer any musical questions you might have.

Guest Musicians

Should you have a strong preference for a cantor or other musician other than one of those on staff with St. John of the Cross Parish, please consult the Director of Music Ministries as early as possible and before formally hiring anyone to ascertain the individual's skills and qualifications in leading Roman Catholic sung prayer. Since serving as a cantor requires knowledge of the liturgy and a skill set beyond musical talent, a letter of recommendation from the cantor's home parish may be requested. It is recommended that guest cantors and other musicians without prior experience with Roman Catholic liturgical music limit their participation to 1-2 songs, and a rehearsal required with the Director of Music Ministries before the day of the wedding will be required.

Wedding Music Selections

Prelude

The musicians will offer 15-20 minutes of quiet background music as your guests arrive. If you have any special requests, please let the Director of Music know.

Seating of Honored Guests (optional)

A special piece may be used as the mothers and/or other honored guests are escorted into the church. Sometimes, the mothers light the tapers for the unity candle during this time.

- ❖ Air from “Suite No. 3” in D (Bach)
- ❖ Arioso (Bach)
- ❖ Blessing (Bart)
- ❖ Largo from “Xerxes” (Handel)
- ❖ The Prayer (Sager & Foster)

Processional

You may choose between using a single processional song for the entire wedding party (the music swelling up to greater grandeur at the entry of the bride) ~ or ~ using two well-linked pieces of music (one for the bridesmaids and a second for the bride).

Single songs that would work for your entire procession:

- ❖ Canon in D (Pachelbel)
- ❖ Thaxted Hymn Tune (Holst)
- ❖ Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring (Bach)
- ❖ Sheep May Safely Graze (Bach)
- ❖ Trumpet Voluntary in D (Clarke)
- ❖ Prelude from Te Deum (Charpentier)

Songs that pair well together:

- ❖ Air from “Water Music” (Handel) & Bridal Chorus (Wagner)
- ❖ Air from “Water Music” (Handel) & St. Anthony Choral (Brahms)
- ❖ Sheep May Safely Graze (Bach) & Bridal Chorus (Wagner)
- ❖ Sheep May Safely Graze (Bach) & St. Anthony Choral (Brahms)
- ❖ Canon in D (Pachelbel) & Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring (Bach)
- ❖ Canon in D (Pachelbel) & Trumpet Voluntary in D (Clarke)
- ❖ Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring (Bach) & Trumpet Voluntary in D (Clarke)
- ❖ The Lover’s Waltz (Mason & Ungar) & Canon in D (Pachelbel)
- ❖ The Lover’s Waltz (Mason & Ungar) & Trumpet Tune (Clarke)

Psalm Response

- ❖ Psalm 39: Forever Will I Sing (Bolduc)
- ❖ Psalm 63: My Soul Is Thirsting for You (Angrisano)
- ❖ Psalm 103: The Lord Is Kind & Merciful (Cotter) - #58
- ❖ 118: This is the Day (Joncas) - #64
- ❖ 128: Blest Are Those Who Love You (Haugen) - #70

Lighting of the Unity Candle (optional)

The Lighting of the Unity Candle is usually brief, and lends itself to a short song or an excerpt from a longer song. Any of these songs would also be appropriate for Preparation of the Gifts.

- Covenant Hymn (Cooney) - #798
- “One Hand, One Heart” from West Side Story (Bernstein)
- The Servant Song (Gillard) - #661
- Wherever You Go (Haas) - #860

Preparation of the Eucharistic Gifts (for Masses only)

The songs listed under The Lighting of the Unity Candle would also be appropriate here.

- Every Morning in Your Eyes (Cooney/Daigle)
- The Gift of Love (Hopson)
- I’ll Walk Beside You (Murray)
- Set Your Heart on the Higher Gifts (Warner)

Communion (for Masses only)

- A New Commandment (Janco)
- How Beautiful (Paris)
- Panis Angelicus (Franck)
- Take and Eat (Joncas) - #812
- Taste and See (Moore) - # 827

Presentation to the Blessed Mother (optional)

- Ave Maria (Schubert)
- Ave Maria (Bach/Gounod)
- Ave Maria (Kantor) - #772
- Hail Mary: Gentle Woman (Landry) - #778

Recessional

- Canticle of the Sun (Haugen) - #495
- I Danced in the Morning (Lord of the Dance) - #689
- Hornpipe from Water Music (Handel)
- Hymn to Joy (Beethoven/arr. Cotter)
- La Réjouissance (Handel)
- Ode to Joy (Beethoven)
- Rondeau (Mouret)
- “Spring” from The Four Seasons (Vivaldi)
- “Wedding March” from Midsummer Night’s Dream (Mendelssohn)

It is recommended that you make an appointment with the Director of Music Ministries to finalize your music selections 4-6 months before your wedding.

Wedding Music Fees

Organist/Pianist \$250.00

St. John of the Cross Parish boasts a wonderful pipe organ and a high quality grand piano. Generally, the organist/pianist for weddings will move from one instrument to the other at their discretion, as dictated by the style of each piece of music. If you have a preference for the sound of one instrument over the other, please let the Director of Music Ministries know at the time of your planning.

Cantor/Soloist \$200.00

In addition to the organist/pianist, every wedding will need an experienced cantor to lead the sung portions of the Mass or ceremony. There are a number of fine cantor/soloists available to sing for weddings at St. John of the Cross. You may opt to use more than one singer at your wedding, as vocal duets and harmonies can be especially beautiful embellishments to your wedding music.

Additional Instrumentalists (optional) from \$250.00

Although piano and organ alone are beautifully simple, you may want other instruments to recreate the music in the same way you may have heard on a recording. The Director of Music Ministries will secure the services of one or more skilled and professional musicians to enhance your wedding celebration according to your desires. These musicians are independent contractors, and they set their own fees.

Trumpet
Violin
Flute

Cello
Harp
String Quartet

Suggested groupings: Trumpet, Flute, & Cello
Trumpet & Flute
Flute, Violin, & Cello
Flute & Cello
Violin & Cello

Music fees are due to the Parish Center one week prior to the wedding. Cash or check will be accepted.

Weddings that are scheduled on certain holidays (including New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Independence Day, the day after Thanksgiving, and the day after Christmas) may be subject to higher fees.

Warm wishes for a lifetime of joy together!

Jessica Koch
Director of Music Ministries
St. John of the Cross Parish
5005 South Wolf Road
Western Springs, IL 60558
(708) 246-4404, ext. 136
jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org