

Planning Your Wedding Music

St. Benedict Parish

Organist

Sarah Eaton, Music Director, 585-394-1220 x41 sarah.eaton@dor.org

As per diocesan guidelines, the parish's primary musician is expected to be the musician for that community's weddings; however, if the musician cannot meet the obligation, a guest musician can play (the music director will supply one).

St. Benedict's Cantors

Our wedding cantors are classically trained singers who are familiar with the repertoire and order of the liturgy. They are also comfortable working with the sound delay and organist's cues.

Sarah Eaton typically selects one of our cantors based on their availability. However, you may request a particular cantor up until 2 months prior to your wedding, to ensure that another cantor has not reserved her calendar for you.

Instrumentalists

If desired, our music director frequently works with a professional violinist, cellist, and trumpeter that are available at an additional \$125 per musician, paid directly to musician. Other solo instrumentalists may be requested, fees may vary.

Some Things to Consider

1. A church wedding should have music consistent with the sacred nature of the ceremony. The music suggestions provide beautiful and appropriate choices for your wedding. However, you are welcome to request a piece of music not on this list. Just keep in mind that while there are many beautiful songs, some are better left to the reception. The music director will do her best to honor your request and will let you know if it is appropriate in this setting.
2. Although it's easy to think all classical music is fair game at a wedding, the popular marches by Wagner and Mendelssohn are secular theatre music, not fitting as sacred music. Wagner's Bridal Chorus accompanies the couple to the bedroom rather than the altar in an opera about pagan gods. Mendelssohn's Wedding March takes place in a farcical wedding in a comedy about fairytale creatures. Both are best left at the theatre, but please talk to the organist if you feel strongly about having a piece played or would like to discuss further.
3. The Glory & Praise hymnal in the pews is a wonderful resource for choosing music. These hymns can be played instrumentally for processional music, or can be led by a cantor for the Psalm, Presentation Hymn, and Communion hymns.
4. If you are having a mass, be sure to choose some hymns that the congregation can join in singing. Typically, the processional/recessional music is instrumental only. Choosing hymns from the Gospel & Praise book allows the congregation to participate in the ceremony.

Music Suggestions

Hymns can be interchanged

Prelude

The organist will play quiet prelude music until given the cue to begin seating music. If you have specific music you would like played, you are welcome to request a hymn for this time.

Seating of the Mothers (or other family)

These pieces are typically played as organ solo but a cantor may be used if desired.

- Sing of Mary (R. Palmer) p. 380
- Mary's Song (M. Rieth) p. 375
- All is Well with My Soul (P. Bliss) p. 643
- Ave Maria (F. Schubert) *with vocalist*

Bridal Party Processional

- Sheep May Safely Graze (J.S. Bach)
- Variations on a Theme by Haydn (J. Brahms) (also called the "St Anthony Variations")
- Arioso (J.S. Bach)
- Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring (J.S. Bach)
- Gift of Love (American folk tune arr. H. Hopson)

Bridal Processional

- O God Beyond All Praising (G. Holst)
- Canon in D (J. Pachabel)
- Trumpet Voluntary (J. Clarke)
- All Creatures of Our God and King (W. Draper) p. 714
- O Perfect Love (J. Barnby)

Responsorial Psalm

- Psalm 128, "*May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives*" (R&A 140)
- Psalm 118, "*This is the Day the Lord has made*" (R&A 76)
- Psalm 90, "*Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy*" (R&A 142)

Alleluia

- Celtic Alleluia, "*All those who live in love, with God are united, for they live with God and God lives in them.*" (G&A 84)
- Alleluia, "*If we love one another, God remains in us and his love is brought to perfection in us*" (R&A 141)
- No preference

Unity Candle (optional)

- Oh Breathe on Me Oh Breath of God (Irish melody arr. R. DeBruyn) p. 399
- Be Thou My Vision (M. Byrne/traditional Irish melody) p. 633
- When Love is Found (English melody arr. R. Debruyn) p. 447
- Take, O Take Me As I Am (J. Bell)

Presentation of the Gifts (Mass)

- Wherever You Go (W. Priory) p. 452
- How Great Thou Art (S. Hine/Swedish folk tune) p. 694
- The King of Love My Shepherd Is (B. Hurd) p. 648
- Prayer of St. Francis (S. Temple) p. 679
- Where There is Love (D. Haas) p. 446

Communion (Mass)

- Gift of Finest Wheat (R. Kreutz) p. 487
- Behold the Lamb (M. Willett) p. 492
- Supper of the Lord (L. Rosania) p. 513
- One Bread, One Body (J. Foley) p. 498
- Laudate Dominum (Mozart) *check with your cantor
- Panis Angelicus (which translates Bread of Angels) (C. Franck)

Recessional

- Joyful Joyful We Adore You (L. Beethoven) - tune of Ode to Joy from 9th *Symphony*
- Hornpipe from *Water Music* (G.F. Handel)
- Now Thank We All Our God (Mendelssohn, arr. Cruger) p. 704
- All Glory Laud and Honor (Theodulph) p. 284
- Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (C. Wesley) p. 662/733

Quick Glance Final Selections:

- Seating _____
- Bridal Party _____
- Bridal Processional _____
- Responsorial Psalm _____
- Alleluia _____
- Unity Candle (Optional) _____
- Presentation (if Mass) _____
- Communion (if Mass) _____
- Recessional _____

Policy on Outside Musicians

Having a friend or family member participate in wedding music is welcomed. It is important to know that outside musicians can face some issues at St. Mary’s with the delay from the microphone at the front of the church sending sound to the organ at the back. Our cantors are accustomed to handling these challenges, and are also familiar with the Liturgy.

If you would like outside musicians to play for your wedding, please check that you have done the following

- Ask permission from Sarah Eaton
- Ask Sarah Eaton to approve your music selections

Circle your response:

Y / N I am requesting ALL music to be played by outside musicians

Musician Names/Instruments

Musicians must:

- Sign a hold-harmless disclosure
- Provide proof of insurance (or request waiver)
- Play music appropriate for church
- Play all-live music. No recordings or background tracks
- Leave the premises as they were found. Microphones and cords should be properly put away. Sheet music should not clutter the space. Chairs should be put in a neat arrangement.

Indicate if and how many needed:

_____ microphones with stands (max 4)

_____ music stands

Other notes
