

Saint Patrick's Music Guidelines for Wedding

The celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage, which is rooted in the Church's regular worship life, is not a private family function, nor is it merely a social affair or a personal expression of your love for one another. Rather, it is an action of the entire church in whose presence you commit yourselves to one another. Because the Sacrament of Marriage is worship, it is principally congregational. And because it is congregational, every effort should be made to enable the assembly to participate in a full and active manner. The liturgy is neither a show nor a performance and it is not enhanced by any design that creates passive observers. Everyone present should be encouraged to participate by being able to hear, see, speak, sing and pray.

The selection of music for your wedding ceremony is a very important process, but many couples don't know where to begin. That's what we're here for! We've designed this packet to acquaint you with some of the best music available for the various parts of the Catholic wedding liturgy.

Liturgy and Music Details

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MUSIC GUIDELINES

Saint Patrick Church has a reputation for its excellent music program, and our attention to music at weddings is no exception. We are here to help you gather the best musicians available for the kind of wedding ceremony you envision.

Music for the wedding should be planned jointly by the couple utilizing the Saint Patrick Wedding Music Packet, in consultation with the Director of Music. The Director will only work with the couple directly. (The Director of Music will not work with parents, friends, planners and coordinators.) Remember that the Sacrament of Marriage is a liturgical celebration. Therefore, one of the basic principles that should underlie your selection of music is whether the music is indeed liturgical music. Popular songs and secular music, no matter how meaningful they may be to you, have no place in the church. They may be appropriately performed at your wedding reception. For the wedding liturgy you'll want to ensure the emphasis is on sacred music, which derives its context from scriptural and liturgical sources, and by its very nature enhances your union within the liturgical rites being celebrated. Music at your wedding also

reflects upon the parish music program. You'll want the music to be stylistically fitting for the church space, consistent with the values of our music program, and appropriate for a room with over a few seconds of reverberation. This means that there are pieces that may be sacred in nature but may not be permitted. Music that is not listed in this packet will need to be approved. In order to prevent any hardship, please first consult with the Director of Music Staff and/or this packet before making any musical plans.

Due to musical and liturgical requirements, only experienced musicians may play for weddings at Saint Patrick's. The Director of Music may assist you in finding these musicians, but ultimately, it is your responsibility to schedule them for your ceremony. Any musician hired that is not on St. Patrick's musician list needs to be approved by the Director of Music. This helps to avoid disappointment to the couple and their families since it ensures a desirable continuity with the church's regular worship life, and protects the parish's mission in terms of high quality liturgy. It also helps guarantee that the liturgy will go smoothly because presider, cantor, organist and instrumentalists are accustomed to working with each other as well as with the specific acoustical demands of the liturgical space.

At the discretion of the Director of Music, you may hire musicians who are not affiliated with Saint Patrick's. However, as stated above. Anyone, not associated with Saint Patrick's who wishes to participate in your wedding must submit a recording for approval. The Musicians that are approved must know that as principal musicians for the wedding, they are entrusted with the responsibility of determining the suitability of musical selections within the context of the Roman Catholic wedding liturgy. The Director of Music must approve all music and musicians chosen for the ceremony. Do not make any arrangements before speaking with the Director of Music.

Cantor

The cantor leads the liturgical music at your wedding and sings any sacred solo repertoire. Throughout the centuries when Christians gathered for prayer, music, especially singing, has played an integral role. St. Paul exhorts the Ephesians "Be filled with the spirit, addressing one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and playing to the Lord in all your hearts." Remember that you've chosen to celebrate your wedding within the context of the Catholic liturgy, where singing is normative. The cantor will help leading the singing of your family and friends. The role of the cantor is a unique one, and it differs quite markedly from simply singing as a soloist. Cantors are thoroughly familiar with the musical requirements of the wedding liturgy, and comfortable working with the acoustics of the Saint Patrick's church building and its sound system. Our cantors are very experienced in working with Saint Patrick's organists and clergy, and they can also sing solo vocal repertoire quite beautifully. All of our wedding cantors are well-trained singers and they come with the highest possible recommendation. A cantor is required for every wedding. Cantors who are not affiliated with Saint Patrick's must be approved by the Director of Music.

Instrumentalists or Choir

Instrumentalists can add to the festivity of the wedding liturgy. We are often asked our opinion on what works best, especially if you're on a fairly tight budget. If your budget allows for a little bit more flexibility, and you would like an optional instrumentalist, you'll probably get the most bang for your buck by having a trumpet. There's a substantial body of excellent music for trumpet. Trumpet also plays on the prelude, processional and recessional, as well as many moments within the liturgy where they can be added to the congregational music and even on top of some solo vocal pieces.

Much the same can be said of the violin, with the possible exception that they might not have quite the same impact during your processional and recessional as a trumpet would have. Harpists are always special in almost any environment, and they – like all musical instruments – sound magnificent in our Saint Patrick's acoustics.

Any of the additional instruments listed below are completely optional, but they can help to enhance the music at your wedding. If you desire any additional instrumentalists, please contact the Director of Music for approval.

Trios, quartets and other ensembles

If you are interested in utilizing the services of an established instrumental ensemble for your wedding, such as a trio or quartet, we ask that you contract with the ensemble directly. There are plenty of talented musicians and ensembles in the Iowa City area so, your options should be plentiful. However, most of these ensembles get booked well in advance, so plan ahead! These musicians are contracted independently of Saint Patrick's, and they are free to set their own fees accordingly. Please contact them directly to hire them.

Payment of Musicians

Musicians that are selected for your wedding are to be paid two weeks before the day of the wedding. The Director of Music will contact the couple and the musicians to make sure that the payment has been received. *If payment is not received by this time, the musicians reserve the right to refuse to play for the wedding.

Prelude and Gathering

Prior to the beginning of the wedding liturgy, there is a prelude consisting of about 5-10 minutes of music as guests arrive and are seated. Music during this time is selected at the discretion of the musicians and encompasses a combination of pieces that mirror the festive nature of the occasion as well as the quiet dignity of prayerful reflection. Often the prelude is comprised entirely of solo organ repertoire but the utilization of other musicians (cantor, trumpet, strings, harp, choir etc.) is possible as well.

Seating of the Parents

Couples often wish to have the seating of their parents highlighted and accompanied by a special piece of music. The seating of the parents takes place just prior to the procession of the wedding party, so the music should be clearly different from that of the processional. A meditative vocal solo or relatively quiet instrumental piece is usually best here. If this is desired, please choose an appropriate vocal solo or instrumental selection from the possibilities listed below, or indicate that you have no preference.

Seating of the Parents Selection: *

Vocal: Be Thou With Them - Johan Sebastian Bach

Vocal: Wedding Hymn - George Frideric Handel

Vocal: Wedding Song - Heinrich Schutz

Vocal: Ave Maria - Charles Gonoud

Vocal: Ave Maria - Franz Schubert

Vocal: This Love - Donald Busarow

Vocal: Now With Thanksgiving - Irish Folk Tune

Instrumental: Canon - Johann Pachelbel

Instrumental: La Grace - George Philipp Telemann

Instrumental: Four Seasons, Winter, Largo - Vivaldi

Instrumental: Xerxes, Largo - George Frideric Handel

Instrumental: Serenade - Clarke (Trumpet Required)

Instrumental: Ecossaise - Clarke (Trumpet Required)

Processional

The processional is usually an instrumental piece played by the organ alone or with other instruments. The procession could also be accompanied by an opening hymn that would be sung by the entire congregation. It is customary at Saint Patrick's to choose one piece of music for the entire procession. The wedding rite does not specify a change in music for the entrance of the bride. Since the ritual calls for a single liturgical procession, the same piece you select will be played for the entire wedding processional. Keep in mind that the main aisle is relatively short.

Processional Selection: *

The Planets: Jupiter - Gustav Holst*

Trumpet Voluntary • Jeremiah Clarke*

Trumpet Tune • Jeremiah Clarke*

Trumpet Tune in D • David Johnson*

Prelude to the Te Deum • Marc-Antoine Charpentier*

Rondeau • John-Joseph Mouret*

Minuet • Jeremiah Clarke (requires a trumpeter)*

Royal Fireworks Music: Overture • G.F. Handel

Canon • Johan Pachelbel

Rigaudon • Andre Campra

Sonata No. 3: Allegro Maestoso • Felix Mendelssohn

I would like an opening hymn.

The Liturgy of the Word

In the Liturgy of the Word, Christians come together to thank God for God's gifts. Listening to God's word (the Bible) they grow in faith more conformed to the mind of Christ. The Liturgy celebrates the wonders of creation and gives thanks for the reality of redemption. The Liturgy of the Word is a celebration of God today speaking to our hearts and souls. The Liturgy of the Word consists of: First Reading, Responsorial Psalm and Gospel. You will select your first reading, second reading and Gospel with your priest.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms by their very nature are songs and are sung responses. The Responsorial Psalm should always be sung. The Responsorial Psalm will be selected by the Director of Music.

Gospel Acclamation

Before the Gospel reading, an Alleluia is always sung (except during Lent). This will be led by the cantor. (Since the Alleluia is a standard liturgical response, it is taken from standard liturgical repertoire.) During the season of Lent, alleluias are omitted from the Church's liturgies, and the Lenten gospel acclamation "Glory to you, O Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ" is sung instead, led by the cantor. The Gospel Acclamation will be selected by the Director of Music.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

This applies to you if you have elected to have a wedding within a Mass. (With communion) While the Liturgy of the Word focuses upon the Word of the Lord, spoken to us here and now, the Liturgy of the Eucharist centers upon the altar-both a place of sacrifice as well as the table from which as Christians we are fed.

Offertory

If you are planning a full Mass, the liturgy continues with music during the offertory and preparation of the altar. This usually takes very little time, so a short organ improvisation or instrumental selection is usually most effective at this point. The selection of the offertory music is left up to the musicians.

Eucharistic Acclamations

During Mass, the Eucharistic Prayer follows next. The cantor will lead the congregation in singing the responses within the prayer. Also called Eucharistic Acclamations, these include the Sanctus (Holy, Holy), the Memorial Acclamation, and the Great Amen. These responses are taken from the standard liturgical repertoire.

Lord's Prayer

Sometimes couples ask to have the Lord's Prayer (Our Father) sung. Although this generally works well on Sundays in your local church, keep in mind that your wedding guests will likely come from several different churches and faiths. Since this is the one common prayer among all Christian denominations, it is very important that everyone be able to join in praying it together. For these reasons, the Lord's Prayer is usually spoken, rather than sung during weddings.

Sign of Peace

Since the sign of peace involves speaking and movement on the part of the congregation, it is not appropriate to have vocal or choral music at this point.

Agnus Dei

The Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) is sung immediately following the sign of peace, just before communion. As with the other acclamations, musical settings of the Lamb of God are taken from the standard liturgical repertoire.

Communion Procession

In selecting music for communion, couples will want to keep in mind the nature of the Eucharistic rite as a sign of the unity of everyone gathered. If you have a congregation that likes to sing, a congregational hymn would be very appropriate here. A vocal solo, a choir anthem, or a meditative organ instrumental selection could work well here too. Please note that one piece of music is usually sufficient for communion.

Communion Selection *

Congregational Hymn: God Is Love • Richard Proulx

Congregational Hymn: Taste and See • Joel Martinson

Congregational Hymn: Gather Us Together • Owen Alstott

Congregational Hymn: Sing to the Lord • Owen Alstott

Congregational Hymn: Mandatum Novum • Christopher Willcock

Congregational Hymn: Take and Eat • J. Michael Joncas

Vocal Solo: Panis Angelicus • César Franck

Vocal Solo: Ave Verum Corpus • Edward Elgar

Vocal Solo: When Love Is Found • English

Vocal Solo: The Call • R. Vaughn Williams

Vocal Solo: Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring • J.S. Bach

Instrumental: Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring • J. S. Bach

Instrumental: Sleepers, Awake • J. S. Bach

Instrumental: Water Music: Air • G. F. Handel

Instrumental: Rhosymedre • R. Vaughan William

Recessional

The wedding recessional is usually a festive and joyous musical expression. Most often played by the organ alone or with trumpet or other instruments, there are countless possibilities, including these listed here. You might notice that some of these same pieces are listed as processional earlier on this page. That's because they can work for either the entrance procession at the beginning of the wedding or the exit recessional at the end. The only difference is that usually they're played a little faster if used here at the end. They all sound great with the addition of a trumpet, but they also sound great with just the organ. Please make one selection.

Recessional Selection *

Trumpet Voluntary • John Stanley*

Trumpet Voluntary • Jeremiah Clarke*

Trumpet Tune - Jeremiah Clarke*

Trumpet Tune in D - David N. Johnson*

Water Music: Hornpipe - George Frideric Handel*

Royal Fireworks Music: The Rejoicing - George Frideric Handel

Rondeau - Jean Joseph Mouret*

Symphony No. 9: Ode to Joy • Ludwig van Beethoven*

Toccata - Giambattista Martini (Requires a trumpeter)

Optional: Meditation to the Blessed Mother

This is a cultural adaptation to the wedding ritual. If you have a devotion to the Blessed Mother and would like to show this devotion by presenting flowers to the Blessed Mother's devotional area in the church, please indicate below. It is best to discuss this with your priest or deacon before choosing to do so. The Meditation to the Blessed Mother takes place prior to the recessional. During the meditation, music may be sung by the vocalist or choir as a reflection of the personal, devotional prayer of the bride and groom. Music during this moment is usually a setting of the "Ave Maria" or other appropriate hymn to Mary. Here are many beautiful possibilities:

Meditation to the Blessed Mother Selection *

Ave Maria • Franz Schubert

Ave Maria • Bach–Gounod

Ave Maria • Gabriel Fauré

Ave Maria • Jacob Arcadelt

O Mary of Graces • Traditional Irish

Music Confirmation

We will get back to you with a confirmation of your music ASAP.

Program

You will also want to begin work on a program. We highly recommend that you produce a program so that your guests will feel welcomed and comfortable.

X _____ (Signature of Bride)

Date:

X _____ (Signature of Groom)

Date:

X _____ (Director of Music)

Date: