



CATHEDRAL WEDDING HANDBOOK

WEDDING MUSIC GUIDE

MUSIC FOR THE WEDDING LITURGY (1 of 4): Policies and Guidelines

The Cathedral of Saint Joseph is a popular choice for weddings, for obvious reasons: it is a beautiful sacred space, and a regional landmark known for its stunning art and architecture. The Cathedral will bring a sense of awe, grandeur, prayer, and beauty to your wedding. At the same time, as the Mother Church for the Diocese and the seat of the Bishop, the Cathedral has specific liturgical and musical guidelines that may be different than those of other churches or non-church wedding venues. This document will help to guide you through our music policies and answer common questions about Cathedral weddings.

The Cathedral Music Director (Dr. Jared Ostermann; jostermann@sfcatholic.org; 605-336-7390) is responsible for approving all wedding music, and assigning musicians to your wedding. It is important to contact the Music Director **at least two months** before your wedding, and sooner if possible.

The most important general policy is that all music played or sung in the Cathedral must be sacred in nature.

Appropriate INSTRUMENTAL music (music without any singing) is, generally speaking, any music that does not have a specific non-sacred context or reference. This means that a well-known theme from a pop song, movie soundtrack or Broadway musical would not be appropriate in the Cathedral. See below for some specific examples of appropriate music.

Appropriate VOCAL music (music sung by the congregation or soloists) needs to have a sacred text - whether taken from the Bible or from the Church's texts for the liturgy (example: Gloria, Lamb of God, Responsorial Psalm) or from an approved Catholic hymnal. See below for some specific examples.

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1:** The instrument available at the Cathedral is the pipe organ. This can be supplemented by instruments portable up the spiral staircase to the organ loft (e.g. violin, flute, oboe, cello, trumpet). The Cathedral Music Director can help you find and book an instrumentalist if you are interested – the best options in our acoustic are usually violin or trumpet.
- 2:** While the wedding fee you paid to the parish includes payment for the organist and cantor, any additional musicians will need to be contracted with at their usual rates. Typical instrumentalist rates range from \$150-\$250 for a wedding.
- 3:** The Cathedral Music Director plays the organ at all weddings, or finds a suitable replacement if unavailable.
- 4:** A Cathedral cantor will be present at your wedding. By assigning a skilled, experienced singer familiar with the Cathedral organ, staff, acoustic, and sound system, we are able to ensure the highest quality vocal music for your wedding.
- 5:** Any additional vocalists need to be discussed with and approved by the Music Director prior to the wedding.
- 6:** Musicians are not present at your wedding rehearsal; this is for the Wedding Party. The wedding organist is available one hour before the wedding. Any musical rehearsals outside of the wedding day are subject to the availability and discretion of the Music Director and may carry additional fees.
- 7:** No recorded music is allowed.
- 8:** Keep in mind for all of the above that the sooner you meet with the Music Director, the better chance you have of making special arrangements, clarifying questions, booking the best instrumentalists and vocalists, and so on. Options decrease as you get closer to the wedding.

MUSIC FOR THE WEDDING LITURGY (2 of 4): Musical outline of the ceremony

There are two basic types of wedding at the Cathedral, with corresponding musical options:

The WEDDING CEREMONY is not a full Mass; it is simply the Liturgy of the Word (readings), homily, and exchange of vows. Musically, this means that only the prelude, processional music, responsorial psalm, and recessional music need to be chosen.

The WEDDING MASS is a regular Mass, as you would experience on a Sunday. There is more music at a Mass: in addition to the prelude, entrance procession, responsorial psalm, and recessional, you have the Mass Ordinary (Gloria, Holy Holy, Memorial Acclamation, Lamb of God) and music during Offertory and Communion.

Note that the “Unity Candle” and “Signing of the Marriage Certificate” are not part of wedding ceremonies at the Cathedral, and thus are not included in the wedding music planning process.

In both forms, some couples choose to include a moment of prayer at the Mary altar, asking for the intercession of the Blessed Mother in their marriage. In a WEDDING CEREMONY this would occur after the wedding vows and exchange of rings; in a WEDDING MASS this occurs after communion. Typically, a setting of Ave Maria is sung at this moment, although other music can be chosen as well.

The Prelude music starts at least 15 minutes before the wedding, while your guests are being seated. The Processional is the piece/pieces played as the Priest and Wedding Party enter the church. The Recessional is the piece played when Wedding Party leaves. The Postlude follows the Recessional, providing background music while the guests leave.

Parents, grandparents, and other honored guests are seated toward the end of the prelude music.

There are two options for the entrance procession: You may have one continuous pieces of music played while the wedding party and bride process to the front; OR, you may have one piece of music for the wedding party and one piece for the Bride’s procession.

This entrance procession music does not have to be instrumental – It is also possible to use congregational hymns or choral chants as processional music, just as you would normally see at Mass. Generally speaking, though, guests prefer to watch the wedding party and bride enter, rather than focusing on singing at that moment. This is why instrumental music is more common.

If you would like to have congregational singing, such as hymns, keep in mind that you can make use of the Cathedral hymnal. Hymn numbers and titles are easy to list in a wedding program, and do not take up much space. Some of the most popular wedding hymns from our hymnal are listed in this guide. If your selections are not in the hymnal, it may still be possible to incorporate them into the wedding program, as text or picture files – although this may take more effort in terms of graphic design. Consult with the Music Director for details on the specific hymns you have in mind.

Music at Offertory and Communion can be congregational, choir/cantor, or instrumental, or vocal solos – you are not limited to congregational hymns for these moments.

When planning your music, it is always good to consider the disposition of your guest list:

- Are both families Catholic?
- Do they regularly attend church, whether Catholic or not?
- Are the guests musically inclined – do they enjoy singing hymns?
- Do they know particular hymns or settings of the Mass well?
- How do your choices of music express your faith?

MUSIC FOR THE WEDDING LITURGY (3 of 4): Musical Selections

This page contains the most well-known, requested, popular liturgical wedding music commonly used at St. Joseph Cathedral. All of the selections are suitable to the Cathedral's acoustic environment and pipe organ. In addition, most of these selections (anything not marked "Organ Only") easily incorporate other instruments. This list is not exhaustive; however, everything here is already approved – any additional selections would need to be discussed with and approved by the Music Director well before the wedding.

Prelude Music

"Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring" – J.S. Bach
"Air from Suite No. 3" – J.S. Bach
"Air from Water Music" – G.F. Handel
"Sheep may Safely Graze" – J.S. Bach
"Arioso" – J.S. Bach
"Ave Maria" – F. Schubert
"Ave Maria" – J.S. Bach/C. Gounod

Processional, Recessional, and Postlude Music

"Canon in D" – J. Pachelbel
"Prelude from Te Deum" – M.A. Charpentier
"The Prince of Denmark's March" – J. Clarke
"Overture" from "Royal Fireworks Music" – G. F. Handel
"Hornpipe" from "Water Music" – G.F. Handel
"The Rejoicing," from "Royal Fireworks Music" – G.F. Handel
"La Marche" – G.F. Handel
"Trumpet Tune" – H. Purcell
"Fanfare" – J. Lemmens (Organ Only)
"Toccata" – C.M. Widor (Organ Only)

Entrance Procession or Offertory Hymns

O God, Beyond All Praising
All Creatures of Our God and King
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You
Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven
Praise to the Lord
Let All Things Now Living
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life
God, We Praise You

Communion Hymns

Ubi caritas (chant)
Where Charity and Love Prevail
Eat This Bread
You Satisfy the Hungry Heart (Gift of Finest Wheat)
Be Thou My Vision
Fairest Lord Jesus
Godhead Here in Hiding (Adoro te Devote)
Jesus, My Lord, My God, My All

Songs not allowed at Cathedral Weddings

Three commonly-requested songs not allowed at Cathedral weddings are: "**The Prayer**," "**The Wedding Song**" (**Peter, Paul, and Mary**), and "**When I Say I Do**." Also keep in mind that songs are not necessarily acceptable just because they are from Christian pop music sources. The suitability of a piece for use in the Cathedral, with Cathedral instruments, in a Catholic liturgy, must also be considered.

MUSIC FOR THE WEDDING LITURGY (4 of 4): Music Planning Sheet

Prelude Music: Helps set the tone for a joyful celebration. If you like, you can leave for the organist to choose.

1. _____ 2. _____
Title Title

Wedding Party Processional Music: Accompanies the wedding party processional through the Cathedral

Title

Bridal Procession (if separate from Wedding Party):

Title

Responsorial Psalm: Please list the Psalm Number and refrain wording that you have chosen from the readings book:

Title

Offertory Hymn (Wedding Mass only): A song during the preparation of the altar, sung by all present.

Title

Communion Hymn (Wedding Mass only): A hymn that speaks of the Eucharist and/or Christian marriage is appropriate.

Title

Marian Consecration (Optional): Music while couple moves to and prays at the Mary altar

Title

Recessional Music: Accompanies the wedding party and assembly as they depart the church.

Title

TIMELINE FOR MUSIC

Two months or earlier before your wedding: Contact the Wedding Director to set up a meeting to discuss the music for your wedding. It is highly recommended that you listen to the selections above (all can be listened to free of charge on YouTube) and begin to think about your music before that meeting.

Two weeks before your wedding, if the Music Director has not heard from you, he may have to take the emergency step of selecting your wedding music for you. It is your responsibility to contact the Music Director in a timely fashion.