

Wedding Ceremony Music Guide

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Congratulations on your engagement! There are a lot of decisions to be made as you plan your wedding ceremony, and for most couples, music is a very important one! Choosing your ceremony music can seem overwhelming, but don't worry – I consult with each couple personally to help them select the perfect music for their special day. This guide will give you an idea of when music will be played during your ceremony, but remember – every wedding is different, and I will accommodate your special requests whenever possible. Ready? Let's get started!

Prelude Music

The “prelude music” will play as your guests arrive, about fifteen minutes before your ceremony is scheduled to begin. I have a list of works by varying composers to play at this time, and I can customize them based on the setting of your ceremony (for example, traditional hymns if your ceremony is in a church). Unless you have special requests, you don't have to worry about selecting this music – I will make a list for you to approve ahead of time. If your ceremony begins a few minutes late, don't worry! I will play until your bridal party is ready.

Examples of Prelude Music: Meditation from Thais (Massenet), Perfect (Ed Sheeran)

Wedding Party Processional

The wedding party processional is a piece of music that will be played as your bridal party enters the ceremony. This piece of music should have a steady rhythm so that your bridal party can walk at a comfortable speed. Do you have ten or fifteen bridesmaids? No problem, I will play until they all reach their destination.

Examples of Wedding Party Processional: Canon in D (Pachelbel), Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring (Bach)

Bride Processional

This is a very exciting moment in the ceremony! This piece of music should have a steady rhythm so that the bride can walk at a comfortable speed. Do you have a long aisle in your church? Are you walking a short cobblestone path? Don't worry, I will play until you reach your destination.

Examples of Bride Processional: Trumpet Voluntary (Jeremiah Clark), A Thousand Years (Christina Perri)

Interlude Music (Optional)

Interlude music is for special rituals performed during the ceremony; if you are lighting a unity candle, performing a sand ceremony, or partaking in communion, you may want music played throughout.

Selecting this music will depend on what type of ritual you will be having, and I am happy to make suggestions during our consultation.

Recessional

Congratulations, you did it! This piece of music should be a happy and exciting one that can be played as you and the rest of your bridal party leave the ceremony.

Examples of Recessional Music: Ode to Joy (Beethoven), Off She Goes (traditional/fiddle)

Postlude

If you have a lot of guests, you might want music played as they exit the ceremony space. Like the prelude music, I have a list of songs that will be appropriate here – I can send you a list for you to approve ahead of time.

Examples of Postlude Music: All You Need is Love (The Beatles), God Only Knows (The Beach Boys)

Helpful Tips

Religious Ceremonies: Some churches/religions have restrictions on what kind of music can be played during their services. If your church has a list of rules/regulations, please send those to me in advance – it is my job to help you select music that is both beautiful and appropriate for your ceremony.

Coordinators: To avoid any awkward silences before the processional, it is helpful to have a designated person (a coordinator, the pastor, or a friend) signal to me when you are ready to walk down the aisle. I may not be able to attend your rehearsal, so assigning someone to coordinate with me when you are ready (or NOT ready) will assure a seamless transition.

Inclement Weather: I like to perform weddings with high quality, well-maintained instruments. Although these violins will produce the best sound I can offer, they cannot be played in inclement weather. If your wedding is outdoors, I will come prepared with a canopy in the event of rain. Please be aware that humidity/direct sun/cold temperature can affect the tuning of the violin.

Sound Systems: If you are having an outdoor wedding and you are concerned about sound projection, I can use a small “pickup” microphone and speaker system to give your guests a better experience. Please note that this sound system will only accommodate the violin.

Special Requests: If one of your song requests is not in my repertoire, I can learn it for you in advance. Please note that there may be an additional fee if I need to purchase sheet music for the song that you want. I must be notified of any new music requests ahead of time to allow for shipping and practice time.

Additional Musicians: If you are interested in a string ensemble for your ceremony, please let me know in advance. Additional musicians are based on availability, and the prices may vary.