

St Paul Parish- Kensington, Ct. Wedding Music Guidelines

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! For your wedding Mass, here are the spots that will need to be filled. An essential guideline to keep in mind when selecting music for your wedding, is that the songs should be liturgical, suitable and appropriate for Mass, and uphold the sanctity of the sacrament of marriage. Secular songs might have special meaning, but may be appropriate for a reception, rather than a Mass. The essential point is that a Catholic wedding is a liturgy, and in its entirety, is a prayer.

Prelude

Before the liturgy, there is a prelude, usually 10-15 minutes, as guests arrive and are seated. The purpose is to create a reverent, prayerful atmosphere in preparation. For the most part, the selections are at the discretion of the musicians, and will be either or both instrumental and sung. A favorite piece or song (s) can be requested, and it can be considered. This can be discussed with the director of music. IT MUST BE FURTHER NOTED THAT, as in the ceremony itself, popular secular song favorites will not be considered- even if they are about “love’.

Processionals:

In selecting music for the processionals, the size of the procession (number of people) should be considered when selecting music. Sometimes a couple might want to have a special highlight as parents, grandparents are seated. This can be discussed with the music director, again keeping the length of the piece in mind. Instrumental pieces for this purpose are more adaptable. Alternatively, the seating is either done before the processional or as part of the bridal party. For the Bridal Processional, extra emphasis should be given to this part. The selection for the Bride doesn't have to be “Majestic”/ As long as the piece differs in the right way, it can still create that Accent. But, Majestic works, always.. Most of those more upbeat selections for the Bride, work equally as well in the Recessional, and you'll see them there as suggestions.

→ Also, some songs may be adaptable so that the Bridal Entrance is highlighted. A great example of this is Canon in D by Pachelbel, one of the most popular choices for weddings. In this case, the music is continuous and more seamless than a change to another piece

*****KEEP IN MIND, THESE MOMENTS GO BY QUICK , ESPECIALLY WITH THE BRIDAL ENTRANCE.

Suggestions for the Bridal Party:

Air for Water Music (Handel)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zfu0ZA 8 k>

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (Bach)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2uXn6nDN7ck>

Canon in D (Pachelbel)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgh68Swuak0>

Air On The G String (Bach)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzlw6fUux4o>

The Swan, Carnival of the Animals (Saint Saens)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qrKjywjo7Q>

Arioso (Bach)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xueopsTHesw>

Salut D'Amour (Elgar)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E61hcSbUVsM>

Suggestions for the Bride:

Trumpet Voluntary "Prince of Denmark" (J. Clarke)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bRrss4kBi2M>

Rondeau (Moret)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZQG-DZy7uY>

Trumpet Tune (Purcell)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmxvhBZkgFQ>

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (Bach)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2uXn6nDN7ck>

Canon in D (Pachelbel)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgh68Swuak0>

Minuet For Berenice (Handel)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RG5QKyFkdAg>

Ronde (Mouret)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZQG-DZy7uY>

Responsorial Psalm:

In the preparation booklet you were given for selecting readings you should have a choice of these selected psalm refrains. The refrain is the response that the assembly will sing after each verse. The Director of Music will select a musical setting for your choice.

The Psalm refrains are:

Option#1- Psalm 33 "The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord."

Option#2- Psalm 34 "Taste and see the goodness of the Lord."

Option#3- Psalm 103 "The Lord is kind and merciful."

Option#4- Psalm 112 "Blessed the man who greatly delights in the Lord's commands."

Option#5- Psalm 128 "Blessed are those who fear the Lord"

Option#6- Psalm 145 "How good is the Lord to all."

Option#7- Psalm 148 "Let all praise the name of the Lord."

Alleluia- Verse before the Gospel:

Before the Gospel is read, there is an Alleluia sung (except during Lent)
Similar to the psalm, you should have a choice between these verses.

Option #1- 1 John 4:7b

Everyone who loves is begotten of God and knows God.

Option #2- 1 John 4:8b and 11

God is love; If God loves us, we must also love one another.

Option #3- 1 John 4:12

If we love one another, God remains in us, and His love is brought to perfection in us.

Option #4- 1 John 4:16

Whoever remains in love, remains in God and God in him.

Preparation of the Gifts/ Offertory:***

When Love Is Found (Hodsen)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pHRWiYU8gA>

I Have Loved You (Joncas)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkMBSchV0Hc>

Prayer of St. Francis

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LeHzzH5zXSI>

The Wedding Song (Stookey)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdNPEX7bY-k***

One Hand, One Heart (Bernstein)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=etbEL4et0Q> ***

How Beautiful (T. Paris)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJM0hFvz64>

Wherever You Go (Weston Priory)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79KUTX-hE18>

*** These songs are technically secular, but because of their lyric content, they are acceptable in a ceremony for this part of the rite.

Communion:

Any Eucharistic or Communion Hymn is perfect.

Some popular ones at Weddings:

Taste and See (Moore)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dGaH8bqrs>

Panis Angelicus (Franck)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCueI9YLcG8>

Panis Angelicus (Lambillotte)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJDQCQwzZZ8>

Presentation to Mary: **optional**

Sometimes a couple will honor our Blessed Mother, Mary during their wedding ceremony by placing flowers or lighting a candle. This would usually be a moment of reflection after communion. The groom and bride would go the shrine where

the statue of Our Lady is and pray for her intercession as they begin their new journey and life together in marriage.

Also appropriate, without doing the Presentation to Mary by her shrine, any of these can be used as a reflection song, if desired, after Communion

Ave Maria (Schubert)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hsBt9yZDslA>

Ave Maria (Bach-Gonoud)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZNbi-qubpPQ>

Ave Maria (Norbert)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQahqVCQz-A>

Hail Mary Gentle Woman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RERoQ1biLdE>

Recessional:

As mentioned above, some songs that are suitable for the Bridal Processional work here, as well. For your recessional you will want the music to be upbeat, bright, triumphant, as you recess as a newly married couple.

Below are some of the most widely used:

Trumpet Voluntary (Clarke)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bRrss4kBi2M>

Hornpipe- from Water Music (Handel)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Tbell8WERo>

Rondeau (Mouret)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZQG-DZy7uY>

Ode to Joy (Beethoven)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jg3sEE18WsE>

Trumpet Tune (Purcell)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyCJETwOb7U>

Spring from The Four Seasons (Vivaldi)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6LAPFM3dgag>

Music for the Royal Fireworks (Handel)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S5ov8iBDZp4>