

Wedding Music Worksheet

Prior to Mass

Prelude

The prelude generally consists of 15-20 minutes of instrumental music prior to the beginning of the ceremony. Music during this time should encompass a combination of pieces which 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/piano repertoire (usually selected at the discretion of the organist), but the utilization of other instruments (trumpet, violin, strings, flute, oboe, guitar, etc.) is possible as well.

Gathering Rites

Processional

The processional is usually played by the organ alone or with brass or other instrumentalists. Some suggested wedding processionals include Jeremiah Clarke's Trumpet Voluntary, Henry Purcell's Trumpet Tune and the "Maestoso" from Felix Mendelssohn's Third Sonata for Organ. Another possibility might be a congregational hymn. Any hymn of praise, thanksgiving, trust or blessing would be appropriate, though special attention should be given to selecting a hymn which would be familiar to a majority of those assembled, both Catholic and Protestant. Some well known ecumenical hymns: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (Gather 949), Now Thank We All Our God (Gather 636), Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (Gather 641), Praise to the Lord (Gather 616), Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Y (Gather 614). God, in the Planning (Gather 970), and Love Is the Sunlight (Gather 967). Sometimes a hymn is sung after an instrumental processional.

Glory to God (sung at Mass)

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Responsorial Psalm

There are many settings of psalms from which to choose for this point in the liturgy. Particularly appropriate are those which utilize refrains easily singable by the congregation and verses sung by the cantor. The responsorial psalms suggested in the wedding lectionary include Psalms 33, 34, 103, 112, 128, 145 and 148.

Second Reading

Gospel Acclamation

Before the gospel reading, this acclamation is sung by the cantor and repeated by the entire congregation. This should be a relatively familiar setting of the Alleluia so that the congregation can sing along comfortably. During Lent the Alleluia is replaced with another acclamation, such as Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ. King of Endless Glory!

Gospel Reading

Homily

Rite of Marriage

Statement of Intentions

Exchange of Vows

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

Prayer of the Faithful

*The Liturgy of the Eucharist as outlined below is NOT included in a wedding ceremony; the **Lord's Prayer** and the **Nuptial Blessing** are placed after the Prayer of the Faithful for a ceremony.*

Liturgy of the Eucharist

(omitted in a wedding ceremony)

Preparation of the Table and Gifts

The preparation of the altar usually takes very little time, so a short, reflective organ or instrumental selection might be most effective here.

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy, Holy

Memorial Acclamation

Great Amen

Acclamations sung by the people are the most appropriate musical expressions of their participation in the wedding liturgy. The Holy, Memorial Acclamation, Great Amen and Lamb of God should nearly always be sung by the entire congregation. For best results, it is suggested that the musical settings of these acclamations be the same as those currently in use at regular Sunday Mass.

Communion Rite

*** Lord's Prayer**

*** Nuptial Blessing**

Sign of Peace

Lamb of God

Communion Procession

In selecting music for communion, every attempt should be made to express a sense of unity within this part of the liturgy. A congregational song would be most appropriate, though a vocal solo, a choir anthem, or a meditative organ or instrumental selection can be considered as possibilities as well.

Concluding Rites

Optional

Presentation of Flowers to the Blessed Virgin Mary

A Marian song, such as a setting of the "Ave Maria" or a setting of the Magnificat may be sung at this time.

Recessional

The wedding recessional is usually the liturgy's most festive and joyous of musical expressions. Most often played by the organ alone or with brass, there are countless possibilities, including John Stanley's Trumpet Voluntary, the "Hornpipe" from Georg Frideric Handel's Water Music, Benedetto Marcello's Psalm 19, the "Final" from Louis Vierne's First Symphony for Organ, and the "Toccata" from Charles-Marie Widor's Fifth Symphony for Organ.