

Wedding Music – Frequently Asked Questions

Who will be the musicians for my wedding?

A Cathedral organist plays for all weddings. You may choose the cantor for your wedding from among the many cantors at the Cathedral.

May I have other friends or family members involved with the music?

At the discretion of our Director of Music, you may have someone sing one appropriate piece of sacred music during the prelude. Anyone not associated with the Cathedral who wishes to participate in your wedding must submit a recording for approval. Do not make any arrangements before speaking with the Director of Music.

May I play recorded music?

The Church calls us to be authentic and true in our celebration of the liturgy. In their 1982 document *Liturgical Music Today*, the US bishops state, “While recorded music, therefore, might be used to advantage outside the liturgy as an aid in the teaching of new music, it should, as a general norm, never be used within the liturgy to replace the congregation, the choir, the organist or other instrumentalists.” Therefore, playing pre-recorded music is not permitted.

Can I have a song that is not church related?

Your wedding celebration occurs through a number of stages - the rehearsal and rehearsal dinner, the wedding liturgy with the exchange of vows, and the reception, to name just a few. During each stage certain musical selections are more appropriate than others. Music of pop culture and the Broadway stage is better suited to the reception or rehearsal dinner than the liturgy. Music in the liturgical setting serves as a vehicle of prayer for the community gathered; texts are drawn from Scripture or other sacred sources.

I planned on having just a soloist. Do I have to have singing at my wedding?

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 you chose will help leading the singing of your family and friends.

Will the music change when the bride enters the Cathedral?

The Roman 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.

Will the Cathedral prepare an order of worship (program) for my wedding?

Yes - this is standard practice for all Cathedral weddings.

When should I begin preparation for the music?

You may begin preparation at any point. However, all preparation is to be completed at least one month prior to the wedding. Music cannot be finalized until all liturgy preparation is completed with the priest.