



BASILICA OF SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Wedding Music Guidelines

Updated 8/2023

Dear Couple,

Congratulations on your engagement and upcoming nuptials at the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel. We wish you well in your marriage. Below are some considerations when selecting wedding music:

The music that you select for your wedding should reflect the sacred nature of marriage and point to the presence of God in the joining of your lives. In its liturgical role, music does not serve as entertainment, but instead serves to draw the congregation together in prayer and praise of God. As such, your wedding music should be of a worshipful nature and should invite and encourage those assembled to actively participate in the liturgy. With that being said, secular songs should never be used during the wedding ceremony. The only place a secular song may be used is as a prelude, but that will be under the scrutiny of the music director and the celebrating priest. In general, your music should be selected with three criteria in mind:

Pastoral: Do the music and instrumentation suit the sacred character of the celebration and the place of worship? Does the music help the assembly to pray? Does it invite and encourage congregational participation?

Liturgical: Does the music reflect God's presence in your marriage? Does it reflect the importance and theme of the marriage rites? Does it reinforce the liturgical readings and prayers of the mass/rite? Is it God-centered, not just God-mentioning?

Musical: Is the music technically, artistically, and expressively sound? Will it be able to be successfully presented using the musical resources available?

Some considerations should also be given to the religious profile of the extended family members and guests expected to be present for the sacramental celebration. Will they participate in the singing and responses? Do they know the Catholic tradition? Are they familiar with the liturgical traditions of the Basilica? All of these should be taken into consideration when selecting your music with your vocalist and organist.

MUSIC SOURCES

The Basilica uses the Breaking Bread hymnal. You are welcome to borrow a copy of the hymnal to select music. Searching the internet for "Catholic Wedding Anthems and Hymns", or a similar search, will provide you with a list of appropriate and acceptable music choices. Additionally, the musicians that you engage for your wedding will be able to suggest appropriate music from their personal repertoires. And finally, some music suggestions are listed in this informational packet.

THE WEDDING CEREMONY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MASS

Preludes: Before the ceremony, music can be used which sets a prayerful and festive atmosphere for the wedding. About fifteen minutes of instrumental music and/or vocal selections are usually sufficient. This is the only place where secular music “may” be used. The individual musicians that you contract will be able to provide you with a list of secular songs that they are familiar with and are acceptable for the church setting.

Processional: The processional accompanies the movement of the wedding party into the church. Processions to be planned for are: **Mother’s Procession, Bridal Party,** and the **Bride.** Separate songs are usually used for each of these movements. Additionally, a hymn may be selected instead of an instrumental piece.

NOTE: Since the traditional wedding marches of Richard Wagner (Here Comes the Bride) and Felix Mendelssohn (from “A Midsummer’s Night Dream) are taken from productions in which distasteful happenings occur to the couples involved, their use is discouraged at the Basilica. There are many beautiful alternatives referred to in the suggested music section.

Gloria: This is new to the wedding tradition. You have the option to recite or have the cantor sing this piece. Suggestions are given later on in this packet.

Responsorial Psalm: You were / will be given a book by the church to select your readings. Included in that is the psalm. The psalm is ideally sung by the cantor. Once you select your psalm, the organist and cantor will find the appropriate music.

Gospel Acclamation: An Alleluia that is acceptable for a church service or one that is familiar with the congregation is to be used here. Suggestions are provided and your organist and cantor will help in this selection.

Candle Ceremony (Optional): This short rite symbolizes the uniting of three-in-one; man, woman and Christ. An instrumental or vocal solo suited to the theme of the rite may be used to accompany the movement. Be careful that any music here does not extend much beyond the execution of the rite (a verse or two of a hymn).

Presentation of the Gifts: A hymn is often used here, led or sung solo by the cantor. An instrumental piece may also be used.

Mass Settings: the Holy, Holy, Memorial Acclamation, Great Amen, and Lamb of God consist of the mass settings. These are to be sung by all in attendance. The suggestion page gives some ideas of settings that are familiar to many people.

Sign of Peace (Optional): If flowers are being presented to parents or an extended sign of peace between the couple and the wedding party and/or families is going to happen, an instrumental or vocal selection that relates to the rite may be used to accompany the movement.

Communion: During communion, a variety of music can be effective – an instrumental, a vocal solo, antiphonal hymn, or congregational hymn may be used.

Meditation to Mary (Optional): It is a tradition at the Basilica for the bride to make a presentation of flowers to the statue of the Blessed mother. An instrumental or Marian hymn is appropriate for this movement.

Recessional: This music should provide a jubilant finale to the marriage ceremony. In general, an instrumental works well, however a congregational hymn may also be used.

If the wedding ceremony does not include a Mass, the preparation of the gifts, sung Mass parts, and Communion are omitted.

Check with the priest to determine if a candle ceremony, sign of peace, or presentation to Mary will occur.

MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

The following musical selections are listed to provide ideas for planning your liturgy. Please look at them as a starting point and not an exhaustive list. There are many other selections that may also be appropriate based on the criteria explained throughout this document, and these are just suggestions for most widely used arrangements. Working with different musicians will also open up the extent of their repertoire. Samples may be found on YouTube.

Prelude Music may be a mix of instrumentals and sung hymns and pieces. Further suggestions can be provided for sung prelude choices.

INSTRUMENTALS

Air (from Water Music) - <i>George Frederic Handel</i>	Allegro (from Water Music) – <i>George Frederic Handel</i>	
Allegro Maestoso (from Water Music) - <i>Handel</i>	Arioso – <i>Johann Sebastian Bach</i>	
Autumn – <i>Antonio Vivaldi</i>	Ave Venum Corpus – <i>Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart</i>	
Canon in D – <i>Johann Pachelbel</i>	Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation - <i>Henry Purcell</i>	Eine
Kleine Nachtmusick Minuet – <i>Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart</i>		
Hallelujah Chorus – <i>George Frederic Handel</i>	Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring – <i>Johann Sebastian Bach</i>	
Jupiter – <i>Gustav Holst</i>	The Rejoicing – <i>George Frederic Handel</i>	
Largo – <i>George Frederic Handel</i>	New World Symphony – <i>Antonin Dvorak</i>	
Ode to Joy – <i>Ludwig von Beethoven</i>	Our Refuge and Strength – <i>Donald Callender</i>	
Panis Angelicus - <i>Cesar Franck</i>	Prelude in C Major – <i>Johann Sebastian Bach</i>	
Rondeau – <i>Jean Joseph Mouret</i>	Royal Fireworks- <i>George Frederic Handel</i>	
Sheep May Safely Graze - <i>Johann Sebastian Bach</i>	Simple Gifts – <i>Joseph Brackett</i>	
Spring – <i>Antonio Vivaldi</i>	Trumpet Tune – <i>Henry Purcell</i>	
Trumpet Voluntary – <i>Jeremiah Clark</i>		

MOTHER PROCESSION

The Gift of Love	The Rose	Father We Come Today
The Wedding Song (There is Love)	One Hand, One Heart	Or any hymn

CANDLE LIGHTING

Set Me Like a Seal	Wherever You Go	Christ Be Our Light
Father We Come Today (Reprise)	I Have Loved You	The Lord is My Light

MASS SETTINGS

Mass of Creation	Mass of Christ the Savior	Mass of Glory
Mass of Renewal	Heritage Mass	Mass of Spirit and Grace

PEACE RITE

Peace I Leave With You My Friends	Peace is Flowing Like a River	Prayer of Saint Francis
Let There Be Peace on Earth	May God Bless You	

- Continued on the next page -

HYMNS FOR PRELUDES, PROCESSIONS, PREPARATION OF GIFTS

How Great Thou Art	When Love Is Found	Praise to the Lord
Holy, Holy, Holy	Only a Shadow	How Beautiful
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee	Gather Your People	Lord Of All Hopefulness
All Creatures of Our God and King	Be Thou My Vision	All the Ends of the Earth
The Church's One Foundation	Eye Has Not Seen	Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
For the Beauty of the Earth	I Sing the Mighty Power of God	Lift Up Your Hearts
O Bless the Lord	River of Glory	Seek Ye First
O God Beyond All Praising	You Are Near	

COMMUNION HYMNS

Holy and Living Bread (Panis Angelicus)	Behold the Lamb	Ubi Caritas
Like a Shepherd	Eat This Bread	Here At This Table
Gift of Finest Wheat	I Am The Bread of Life	The Supper of the Lord
Supper of the Lord	In the Breaking of the Bread	Bread, Blest and Broken
Seed, Scattered and Sown	Table of Plenty	

MARIAN HYMNS

Ave Maria (various versions)	Hail Mary, Gentle Woman	On This Day, O Beautiful Mother
Mother Dear, O Pray for Me	Mary Full of Grace	Our Lady of the Alleghenies

BASILICA MUSIC MINISTERS

Engaging the services of music ministers is the responsibility of the couple. Use of parish musicians who are familiar with the practices and guidelines of the parish is preferred, however, use of outside musicians may be considered on an individual basis. All music and musicians for the wedding must be approved by the parish's liturgical music director.

Fees are set by the individual musicians and vary, depending upon the musician selected, the amount of music requested, and the amount of rehearsal time needed with other musicians. For most Basilica musicians, that would include a planning meeting with the couple or a conversation by email, practice with the other cantors/musicians, and the ceremony. Musicians do not usually attend the bridal party rehearsal unless approved by the priest. If outside musicians are going to be used, arrangements can be made to use the church facilities for rehearsal with the Basilica parish office.

For all Basilica musicians and vocalists, a non-refundable 50% deposit is due at the time of the booking. The remaining balance is due a week before the wedding. Fees may be turned into the church office as cash or a check in an envelope marked for each individual musician and the date of wedding, or you may mail the fees directly to each musician. Addresses will be provided to you upon booking.

Liturgical Music Director Jonathan Nagy Cell: 814-244-1876 Email: jnagy@dioceseaj.org

Organists Jonathan Nagy - 814-244-1876
Casey Criste – 814-290-8670
Max Oravec – 814-691-9449

Cantors/Vocalists Monica Hogue - 814-931-4912
Stephanie Rossman - 814-659-5598
Doug Tusing - 814-244-6830

BASILICA WEDDING MUSIC PLANNER

Date _____

Time _____

Bride/Groom _____

Phone Numbers _____

Email Addresses _____

Priest Presiding _____

Musicians _____

PRELUDES: _____

MOTHER PROCESSION (Optional): _____

BRIDAL PARTY PROCESSION: _____

BRIDE PROCESSION: _____

GLORIA (Optionally Sung): _____

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: _____

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: _____

CANDLE CEREMONY (Optional): _____

PREPARATION OF GIFTS: _____

MASS SETTING: _____

SIGN OF PEACE (Optional): _____

COMMUNION: _____

MARIAN PRESENTATION (Optional): _____

RECESSIONAL: _____