

How to begin planning the music for your wedding Mass

The information below will help you choose and organize the music for your wedding. The music director, Mary Weaver, will be happy to help you as needed. You can reach her at 865-437-8620.

Please note that because your wedding is a sacramental celebration taking place in God's temple and in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, the music chosen must be truly sacred and appropriate. Secular music (e.g., pop, Broadway tunes, opera, etc.) is never permitted, even if the music is instrumental and no lyrics are sung.

All music to be performed in the church building, whether before or during the wedding, must be approved by the music director not later than two months before the wedding date.

Please carefully read the following:

1. **Our organist, Hyunju Lee, has the right of first refusal for all weddings.** Her fee is \$250. If she is unavailable, the music director will provide names and contact details for a substitute organist.

2. **We can usually provide a cantor if desired.** Her fee is \$150 to \$200, depending on the amount and complexity of the music to be sung. If the wedding is to take place during a sung Mass, a cantor is necessary.

3. **If your wedding will take place during the celebration of Mass,** a Mass ordinary (e.g., the Gloria, Lamb of God, etc.) will be sung.

- ✦ English Mass: We recommend the ICEL simple chant Mass setting that's sung at Holy Ghost most of the year. If you prefer a different Mass ordinary, the music director must approve it, and you'll need to provide purchased copies (not photocopies) of the music for both the organist and cantor/soloist not less than two months before the wedding date.
- ✦ Latin Mass: Most any Gregorian ordinary can be sung during a Traditional Latin Mass. Please discuss with the music director.

4. **You will need to choose the following instrumental music:**

- ✦ [Optional] The prelude: organ music to be played for the 10 to 20 minutes before the wedding begins
- ✦ Music for the seating of mothers, grandmothers, and other family members
- ✦ Music for the procession of attendants
- ✦ Music for the bride's procession
- ✦ Any hymns, instrumentals, or solos to be sung/played during the offertory [if the wedding occurs during Mass], after Communion [if during Mass], and during the placing of a bouquet at the statue of Mary [an optional but beautiful Catholic custom]
- ✦ The couple's procession after the wedding.

Listen to a YouTube playlist of good instrumental options here: <https://bit.ly/HG-wedding>

5. You will need to choose Scripture readings, a responsorial psalm, and a Gospel Acclamation/Alleluia [unless your wedding will take place in the context of the Traditional Latin Mass]:

- ✦ Readings from the Old Testament, New Testament, and Gospel, and a responsorial psalm
View the options here: <https://www.foryourmarriage.org/readings/>
- ✦ A Gospel Acclamation/Alleluia
View the options here: <http://www.catholicweddinghelp.com/topics/text-alleluia-verse.htm>
- ✦ The music director will provide music for the responsorial psalm and Gospel Acclamation/Alleluia unless you prefer to have specific settings sung. In that case, purchased copies of the music (not photocopies) must be provided and approved not less than two months before the wedding date.

6. Cantors for weddings are often asked to sing solo music—for example, the Schubert *Ave Maria* or Franck *Panis angelicus*—during the prelude or wedding ceremony. If you would like solo music sung during the wedding, please talk with the music director about the possibilities.

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