

Wedding Ceremony Music Guide



There are five parts of the wedding ceremony where music is appropriate

1. **Prelude** – The arrival and seating of the guests
2. **Processionals** – The arrival of the wedding party / arrival of the bride
3. **Interlude** – Sections of the ceremony where there is no talking e.g. prayers, candle lighting, signing of register
4. **Recessional** – The bride and groom and wedding party leave the ceremony
5. **Postlude** – Music that is played as guests leave the ceremony

Remember that this is YOUR wedding day and I can play whatever music you desire. Below are musical suggestions based on my experience.

The Prelude

This is music that is played while guests congregate in the church and wait for the bride to arrive. The music sets the mood for the ceremony to come and should be positive and joyous. Unless you have particular music in mind, I will usually play a selection while your guests assemble. Popular music played during the prelude includes:

Air (from Water Music)	Handel
Air on the G string	Bach
All I Ask of You (from Phantom of the Opera)	Webber
Angel Eyes	Jim Brickman
Cristofori's Dream	David Lanz
Can't Help Falling in Love	Elvis
Greensleeves	Traditional
Hawaiian Wedding Song	Traditional
Imagine	John Lennon
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring	Bach
Just the Way You Are	Billy Joel
Marry Me	Train
Miss Claire Remembers	Enya
Theme from Swan Lake	Tchaikovsky
Somewhere Over the Rainbow	Israel Kamakawewe'ole
Unforgettable	Nat King Cole

The Processionals

This is music played for the arrival of the wedding party as well as the bride's procession down the aisle. Processional music is bright, happy and easy to walk to at a measured pace. The music here is usually very recognizable. If necessary your musician will be able to repeat the main theme until everyone has arrived "down the aisle". It is also common to have two pieces of music played during the processional. The first is for the arrival of the bridal party. The musicians then stop briefly and begin a new piece, signaling the arrival of the bride.

Arrival Of Wedding Party

Canon in D	Pachelbel
Air on the G string	Bach
The Look of Love	Dionne Warwick/Burt Bacharach

Arrival Of the Bride

Arrival of the Queen of Sheeba	Handel
Bridal Chorus (Here Comes the Bride)	Wagner
Canon in D	Pachelbel
Crash	Dave Mathews
Marry Me	Train
Prelude from Te Deum	Charpentier
Prince of Denmark's March (Trumpet Voluntary)	Clarke

The Interlude

There will be sections of the ceremony where there is no talking, e.g. prayers, candle lighting, signing of the register, during which time the pianist will be willing to play any suitable music of your choice, whether traditional or modern. You may wish, for example, to have some music played that has a special meaning to you both. This is also the appropriate time where you can make your ceremony unique by arranging to have a friend, relative or group entertain your guests by singing or playing your own choice of music and tunes. If you opt for the pianist to play traditional music, the following pieces are popular:

Air on the G String	Bach
Amazed	Lonestar
Angel Eyes	Jim Brickman
Ave Maria	Bach/Gounod or Schubert
Can You Feel the Love Tonight	Elton John
Canon in D	Pachelbel
Clair De Lune	Debussy
Cristofori's Dream	David Lanz
Endless Love	Lionel Ritchie
Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring	Bach
On Your Shore	Enya
Ribbon in the Sky	Stevie Wonder
The Dance	Garth Brooks
Valentine	Jim Brickman
Watermark	Enya

The Recessional

The end of the ceremony is usually marked by the bridal kiss or the announcement of the newly married couple. The triumphant music used here usually has a faster tempo than the processional because you don't have to walk at such a measured pace. Music should be majestic and played with a quick tempo.

All You Need Is Love	The Beatles
Better Together	Jack Johnson
Highland Cathedral	Traditional
Is This Love	Bob Marley
It Had To Be You	Harry Connick Jr.
Marry Me	Train
My Best Friend	Tim McGraw
Ode To Joy	Beethoven
Over The Rainbow/Wonderful World	Israel Kamakawewo'ole
Overture (from The Marriage of Figaro)	Mozart
Prelude from Te Deum	Charpentier

Prince of Denmark's March (Trumpet Voluntary)	Clarke
Spring (from the Four Seasons)	Vivaldi
Trumpet Tune	Purcell
Wedding March (from Midsummer Night's Dream)	Mendelssohn
You Are The Sunshine Of My Life	Stevie Wonder

The Postlude

This is the music played immediately after the recessional, and continues until every guest has left the ceremony area. The music selections for this portion of the ceremony can be left up to the musician i.e. I can select appropriate pieces based on the music you have picked out for the other sections of your wedding.