



**Choosing Music
For Your Wedding**

Choosing Music For Your Wedding

Introduction

A church wedding is a liturgical celebration; it is part of the public worship of the Church. It has a structure that has to be observed. Within this structure, there are places where choices have to be made, particularly with regard to the selection of readings and music. These choices need to reflect the solemnity and dignity of the occasion and cannot be determined solely by your tastes and preferences. The fact that they are part of a liturgical celebration means that they have to satisfy certain criteria.

In this resource we will outline the structure of the wedding liturgy, describe the places where choices can be made, and discuss the restrictions that apply. We will also discuss working with the celebrant, music ministers and copyright.

Dear Couples

I offer you this resource as you plan your wedding, particularly the music, so that the Christian emphasis of this ceremony will speak clearly to all those present and inspire both of you to follow Jesus in all aspects of your life together.

B J Hickey

The Structure of the Rite and the Place of Music

The Rite comes in two forms, the structures of which are given below.

Rite of Marriage Within Mass

Introductory Rite

Entrance Processional 
Gathering Song 
Sign of the Cross
Greeting
Penitential Act/Lord have mercy 
The Collect

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading
Responsorial Psalm 
Second Reading
Gospel Acclamation 
Gospel Reading
Homily

Rite of Marriage

Introduction
Questioning
Consent
Acclamation 
Blessing and Exchange of Rings
Song of Praise 
Universal Prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory Processional 
Preparation of the Gifts
Preface
Holy, Holy 
Eucharistic Prayer
Eucharistic Acclamation 
Great Amen 
Our Father 
Nuptial Blessing
Sign of Peace
Lamb of God 
Communion Processional 
Prayer after Communion

Concluding Rite

Solemn Blessing and Dismissal
Signing of Documents 
Recessional 

Rite of Marriage Outside Mass

Introductory Rite

Entrance Processional 
Gathering Song 
Sign of the Cross
Greeting
Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading
Responsorial Psalm 
Second Reading
Gospel Acclamation 
Gospel Reading
Homily

Rite of Marriage

Introduction
Questioning
Consent
Acclamation 
Blessing and Exchange of Rings
Song of Praise 
Universal Prayer
Nuptial Blessing

Concluding Rite

Our Father 
Solemn Blessing and Dismissal
Signing of Documents 
Recessional 

Published by:

Centre for Liturgy

Archdiocese of Perth

28 Marda Way

NOLLAMARA WA 6061

Telephone: [08] 9207 3350

Fax: [08] 9349 0362

Email: liturgy.centre@perthcatholic.org.au

Website: www.liturgy.perthcatholic.org.au

The parts of the ceremony marked with a  above are the parts where there can be singing or instrumental music. We will consider each of these in the next section.

Music for various parts of the Rite

Entrance Processional/Gathering Song:

- The ceremony begins with the Entrance Processional or the Gathering Song.
- Either an instrumental piece or a song can be used to accompany the bride as she processes to the altar.
- If an instrumental piece is used, it can be followed by the Gathering Song, which assists people to prepare for worship.

Lord, Have Mercy :

- May be sung.
- It can be combined with the Penitential Act and the two can be sung together.

Responsorial Psalm:

- Should be sung by a Cantor with the people joining in the response.

Gospel Acclamation:

- Should be sung. It may be omitted if it is not sung.

During the Rite of Marriage:

- The Blessing and Exchange of Rings may be preceded by a sung Acclamation and followed by a Song of Praise.

When Marriage is celebrated within Mass:

The Offertory Procession may be accompanied by a song or by instrumental music. The acclamations before and during the Eucharistic Prayer (Holy, Holy; Eucharistic Acclamation; Great Amen) should be sung. There are many Mass settings that can be used for these acclamations. One that is familiar to the guests should be chosen.

Our Father:

- May be sung in either form of the rite; the use of the plainchant setting is recommended.

When Marriage is celebrated within Mass:

The Lamb of God may be sung. It can be taken from the same Mass setting as the acclamations during the Eucharistic prayer. The Communion Processional is sung while people are going to Communion.

Signing of Documents After the Ceremony:

- Instrumental music can be played and songs can be sung while this is going on.

Recessional:

- Accompanies the couple as they leave the church.
- It may be either a song or an instrumental piece.

Choosing suitable music for a Liturgical Celebration

It will be necessary to choose songs for some or all of the following:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Entrance Processional or Gathering Song,• Offertory Processional,• Communion Processional, | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Music during the signing of documents,• Recessional. |
|--|---|

Liturgy of the Word

- If the wedding is on a Sunday or solemnity, the readings and prayers of the day must be used.
- The Responsorial Psalm and the Gospel Acclamation should be settings of the texts in the Lectionary.
- The Responsorial Psalm should not be replaced by some other song.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

- The parts of the Mass should be taken from a well-known Mass setting, so that, as far as possible, the people can join in singing them.

Instrumental Music

- Instrumental music for the Entrance Processional and the Recessional can be joyful and lively.
- Instrumental music at the Presentation of the Gifts or during the signing of documents should be more restrained.
- Instrumental renditions of popular songs or pieces from operas are not suitable.

Recorded Music

- The use of recorded music should be avoided.

Secular Songs

- The words of the songs that are chosen need to reflect the values and beliefs of the Church. Very few popular love songs meet this criterion. Such songs can be played at the wedding reception, but should not be part of the wedding ceremony.

Working with the Music Ministers

- There is a range of possibilities regarding the musicians you choose for the wedding. They can range from a solo organist to an organist and cantor to a full choir.
- You will need to meet with the organist, cantor or choir director well before the wedding to choose the music.
- If necessary, they will be able to make suggestions regarding appropriate pieces of music and give you a selection to choose from.
- They will also be able to advise you on copyright matters.

Copyright

If you decide to produce a wedding booklet, you need to observe the requirements of the law regarding copyright. The texts of the Mass and wedding service are copyright, and this should be acknowledged in the booklet. If you want to reproduce the words of the songs, you may need to obtain a license to do so. The music ministers will advise you on where and how to apply for a copyright license. Alternatively, contact Word of Life International.

Word of Life International Telephone: [03] 5662 3015 E-mail: office@freelink.com.au

Marriage Ceremony Planning Guide

The following form can be used to plan the marriage ceremony. Items marked "[NM]" are for Nuptial Masses only.

Celebrant: _____ **Cantor:** _____

Organist: _____ **Other ministers:** _____

Music before ceremony: _____

Introductory Rite

Entrance Processional/Gathering Song: _____

Penitential Act/Lord Have Mercy: [NM] _____

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: _____ Reader: _____

Responsorial Psalm: _____ Psalmist: _____

Second Reading: _____ Reader: _____

Gospel Acclamation: _____

Gospel Reading: _____

Rite of Marriage

Acclamation: _____ Song of Praise: _____

Universal Prayer: intentions announced by: _____

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory Procession song/music [NM]: _____

Gifts carried by [NM]: _____

Holy, Holy [NM]: _____

Eucharistic Acclamation [NM]: _____

Great Amen [NM]: _____

Our Father [NM]: _____

Lamb of God [NM]: _____

Communion Song [NM]: _____

Concluding Rite

Music during Signing of Documents: _____

Recessional: _____

Music for Weddings

Psalm Settings

Psalm 32 Response: *The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.*
CWB 134a

Psalm 33 Response: *I will bless the Lord at all times.* CWB 331
or: *Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*
CWB 332, 595/GA 33, 34, 35

Psalm 102 Response: *The Lord is kind and merciful.* CWB 350, 351
or: *The Lord's kindness is everlasting to those who fear him.*

Psalm 111 Response: *Happy are those who do what the Lord commands.* CWB 482b
or: *Alleluia!*

Psalm 127 Response: *Happy are those who fear the Lord.*
CWB 192a R2, 445
or: *See how the Lord blesses those who fear him.*

Psalm 144 Response: *The Lord is compassionate to all his creatures.* CWB 134c

Psalm 148 Response: *Let all praise the name of the Lord.*
or: *Alleluia!*

Note that the verses in the settings listed above may not be the same
as the verses set down in the **Lectionary** for weddings.

Songs

A Blessing (Willcock) GA 440
Blessing Song (Robinson) AOV 161
Blessing the Marriage (Bell & Maule) AOV 2 35
Bridegroom and Bride (SLANE) AOV 2 42/GA 220
Come, on this Wedding Day (DOWN AMPNEY) GA 222
Come to a Wedding (BUNESSAN) GA 221
God is Love, the Source of Goodness
(NETTLETON) CWB 693
Hear Us Now, Our God and Father (HYFRYDOL) CWB 706
In Love We Choose to Live (Cotter) AOV 2 63
May God Bless and Keep You (Walker) AOV 177/GA 441
May You Be United In Love GA 218
O Perfect Love (HIGHWOOD) CWB 774
Peace, Joy and Happiness (Wise) CWB 786
Wedding Blessing (Glover) GA 219
Where There is Love (Haas) AOV 87
Wherever You Go (Norbet) GA 223

Preludes and Interludes

Adagio (from *Oboe Concerto in D minor*) (Marcello)
Air (from *Water Music*) (Handel)
Air [on the G String] (from *Orchestral Suite no. 3 in D*)
(Bach)
Canon in D (Pachelbel)
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (from *Cantata No. 147*) (Bach)
Largo (from *Piano Concerto in F minor*) (Bach)
Largo (from *Xerxes*) (Handel)
Sheep May Safely Graze (from *Cantata No. 208*) (Bach)
Siciliano (from *Concerto in D minor*) (Bach)

Abbreviations

AOV	As One Voice
AOV2	As One Voice Vol 2
CWB	Catholic Worship Book
GA	Gather Australia

Organ Pieces

Processionals and Recessionals

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba
(Sinfonia from *Solomon*) (Handel)
March (from *Occasional Oratorio*) (Handel)
Prelude (from *Te Deum*) (Charpentier)
Toccata (from *Symphony No. 5*) (Widor)
Trumpet Tune in C (Purcell)
Trumpet Tune in D (Purcell)
Trumpet Voluntary (The Prince of Denmark's March)
(Clarke)
Trumpet Voluntary (Stanley)

