

Wedding Music at Holy Spirit

The following policies for music in Catholic wedding liturgies at Holy Spirit Church have been created based on documents of the Bishops Committee on the Liturgy (BCL): Music in Catholic Worship and Liturgical Music Today. These are parallel to the liturgical policies in place at the Diocesan Office of Worship of St. Cloud.

1. Music will be chosen with the consultation of the Director of Music and Liturgy. All music chosen for the wedding must be sacred in nature. Secular pop, rock or country songs will not be allowed.
2. Holy Spirit has trained vocalists, accompanists and instrumentalists who are regular parish musicians. They are experienced in the liturgy and can provide you with quality music acceptable for Catholic wedding liturgies. Outside musicians are only allowed upon approval of the Director of Music and Liturgy. At least one musician from Holy Spirit must be used because they are familiar with the space, instruments, sound system and order of Holy Spirit wedding liturgies. If outside musicians are used in addition, they must be familiar in Catholic liturgy and have served as a regular accompanist/cantor.

GUIDELINES FOR CHOOSING MUSIC FOR CATHOLIC WEDDINGS

As in any celebration, music in a wedding Mass or ceremony is a very important element. It is a most powerful communicator. Great care should, therefore, be taken to choose music that is highly fitting and proper to this holy and sacred occasion. The following guidelines are provided to help you along the road toward achieving the most prayerful and meaningful celebration possible. Questions not answered here may receive further clarification during your wedding music consultation with the liturgist.

(1) *Certain music is inappropriate for Church use.* Music with no religious significance is not allowed before or during a wedding Mass or ceremony. Though a song or piece of music may be popular on the secular scene, may genuinely speak to you, and be replete with references to love, it nevertheless has no place at divine worship. ***“What is being brought to expression in a wedding liturgy is the mystery of human love as a covenant relationship. Songs which express the religious dimension of love explicitly, of course, have pride of choice. Songs which imply this religious dimension are also suitable. But a song which denies this dimension either explicitly or implicitly must be avoided at all costs, for it belies the mystery: it is falsehood in liturgy.”***MR # 26

Here is a small sampling of songs inappropriate for liturgy:

“All My Life”, “Annie’s Song”, “Because You Love Me”, “Endless Love”, “Evergreen”, “From This Moment”, “I Cross My Heart”, “It’s Your Love”, “Me & You”, “My Heart Will Go On”, “Sunrise, Sunset”, “The Rose”, “Wind Beneath My Wings”, etc....

The songs of the liturgy should express praise of God and speak of the love of the Lord for God’s people; songs that focus only on the love of the couple for each other do not express the love of God in the same way. Follow the general rule that just as religious songs are

inappropriate at your reception, so popular romantic songs are inappropriate at a religious wedding ceremony.

When choosing music, consider these questions:

- *Is the music appropriate to the liturgy and celebration?
- * Is the music an integral part of a liturgical service whose primary concern is the worship of God?
- * Can you pray the words of the text?

(2) Church regulations require that the "Our Father" be sung or recited by the entire congregation.

(3) The Responsorial Psalm must always be sung and it must be from a musical setting that allows participation from the assembly.

(4) Taped music is not allowed.

(5) Instrumental music:

Instrumental music can be used as prelude music, at the processional and recessional as well as at certain times during the liturgy such as the sign of peace. The "soap opera" wedding is not a good model for the Christian marriage liturgy. For example "Here Comes the Bride" and Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" even in their original context have nothing to do with Christian marriage. There are literally thousands of appropriate pieces of instrumental music to choose from; the liturgist can help you in your musical decisions.

Approved Music for Weddings

The following songs are all pre-approved for use during Liturgy. This list is composed of the more popular and well known songs for weddings. It is by no means all inclusive. The hymnal numbers correspond to the Gather Comprehensive hymnal found in the pews. The Director of Music and Liturgy will assist you with music selection.

Gathering Song

Hymnal # Title

753 All Are Welcome

533 All Creatures of Our God and King

747 All People that On Earth Do Dwell

95 All the Ends of the Earth

853 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

871 Blessing the Marriage

659 Blest Are They

496 Canticle of the Sun

572 For the Beauty of the Earth

744 Gather Us In

Gathered in the Love of Christ (Pachelbel's Canon)

522 Glory and Praise to Our God

868 God in the Planning

528 Joyful, Joyful We Adore You

578 Lord of All Hopefulness

622 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

866 Love is the Sunlight

Composer

Haugen

(public domain)

(public domain)

Haas/Haugen

(public domain)

Bell

Haas

Haugen

Pierpont

Haugen

Haugen

Schutte

Bell

Beethoven/Hodges

Struther/Routley

(public domain)

Jacobson/Haas

756 Morning Has Broken	Farjeon
551 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven	(public domain)
527 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	(public domain)
537 Sing a New Song	Schutte
547 Sing of The Lord's Goodness	Sands
435 Sing to the Mountains	Dufford
Table of Plenty	Schutte
718 We Are Called	Haas
865 When Love is Found	Wren/OWALY WALY

Responsorial Psalm

Hymnal # Psalm Number Title	Composer
27 Psalm 19: Lord, You Have the Words	Haas
36 Psalm 25: To You, O Lord	Haugen
Psalm 33: The Earth is Full of Beauty	Cotter
47 Psalm 34: Taste and See	Haugen
65 Psalm 66: Let All the Earth	Haugen
95 Psalm 98: All the Ends of the Earth	Haas/Haugen
97 Psalm 100: We Are God's People	Haas
99 Psalm 103: The Lord Is Kind and Merciful	Cotter
Psalm 112: God's Command	Haas
107 Psalm 116: Our Blessing Cup	Haugen
114 Psalm 118: Let Us Rejoice	Haugen
125 Psalm 128: Blest Are Those Who Love You	Haugen
125 Psalm 128: May the Lord Bless Us	Haugen
137 Psalm 145: I Will Praise Your Name	Haas
138 Psalm 145: Our God is Compassion	Cotter
Psalm 146: Let All Praise the Name of the Lord	Haas

Communion Procession

Hymnal # Title	Composer
852 At That First Eucharist	Turton/Monk
659 Blest Are They	Haas/Joncas
838 Eat This Bread	Batastini/Berthier
638 Eye Has Not Seen	Haugen
629 God Is Love	Haas
504 I Have Loved You	Joncas
841 In the Breaking of the Bread	Hurd
628 No Greater Love	Joncas
833 Now In This Banquet	Haugen
830 One Bread, One Body	Foley
669 Servant Song	The Gillard
847 Song of the Body of Christ	Haas
849 Table Song	Haas
814 Taste and See	Moore
733 We Are Many Parts	Haugen
850 We Come to Your Feast	Joncas
699 We Have Been Told	Haas
590 We Walk By Faith	Haugen
865 When Love Is Found	Wren/West
649 You Are Mine	Haas

Vocal Solos: The following selections are approved for use during the prelude or during the lighting of the unity candle or as a Communion meditation. Unity candle selections should be short in length in order to maintain the flow of the liturgy.

A Nuptial Blessing	Joncas
And Now We Join (duet)	Halfvarson
Bridal Song	Copeland
By My Side	Porter
Come and Journey With Me	Haas/Cotter
The Gift of Love (solo or duet)	Hopson
God, a Woman, and a Man	Green
He Has Chosen You For Me	Terry
How Beautiful (liturgies with Eucharist)	Paris
I Will Be Here	Chapman
In Love We Choose to Live	Cotter
Make Us One	Johnson
Paris Angelicus (liturgies with Eucharist)	Frank
Shine on Us	Smith
Wedding Song (There is Love)	Public Domain
Wherever You Go	Norbert
	Haas

**A Marian hymn/solo, while not a part of the Marriage rite, may be used as a prelude song or as a Meditation song *if* the couple has a strong devotion to Mary.

Instrumental Music

This is only a small sampling of the music available

Title Composer

Air from Suite #3 in D	J.S. Bach
Arioso	J.S. Bach
Canon in D	J. Pachelbel
Hymn to Joy (Ode to Joy)	J. Cotter
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring	J.S. Bach
Joyful, Joyful	Beethoven/ L. Line
March Jubliant	L. Line
Minet in G	J.S. Bach
Prelude in Classic Style	G. Young
Prince of Denmark's March, The (Trumpet Voluntary)	J. Clarke
Rondeau from 'Simphonies di Fanfare'	J. Mouret
Royal Fireworks Music	G. F. Handel
Spring from "Seasons"	A. Vivaldi
Threads of Love	L. Line
Trumpet Tune	J. Stanley
Trumpet Tune	J. Clarke
Water Music Suite (various titles: Hornpipe, Air)	G. F. Handel