

Wedding Music Guidelines for First Presbyterian Church

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! The primary purpose of the wedding ceremony is to glorify God, and for this reason, we recommend the following musical selections at the bottom of this page. Please complete your selections **no less than 30 days prior to the ceremony**. The organist will provide 20 minutes of quiet prelude music prior to the entrance of the bridal party.

Depending on the order of your service, there may be a few additional pieces (for example, sometimes a short piece is played during a Unity Candle lighting). Finally, if you are interested in contracting any special groups (string quartet, vocalists, other instrumentalists), the sooner we can get those groups contracted, the better. The Music Coordinator can assist you in selecting special musicians or groups to play at your ceremony, however **the responsibility for contracting and paying these musicians is the responsibility of the wedding party**. All outside musicians/groups must be approved by the Music Coordinator at least 30 days prior to the ceremony.

Here is a breakdown of how our wedding service music proceeds:

- **Prelude:** 20-30 minutes of traditional selections by the Organist
- **Bridal Party/Family Entry:** Depending on number of family members or size of bridal party, this is sometimes 2 pieces. Generally, a bridal party with more than 8 Bridesmaids should use two pieces.
- **Bridal Procession** - Entrance of the Bride
- **Special Music/Unity Candle/Rose Ceremony** (if desired by the couple, but not required)
- **Recessional** - Couple and Wedding Party Exits the Church

Selections for Weddings

This list is not a limit of available selections, but the organist reserves first right of refusal for selections outside of this list. If you have a particular piece in mind, it is best to express this as far in advance of the ceremony as possible. Please click the following link to hear these selections as recorded at First Presbyterian Church:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-756136936/sets/a-first-presbyterian-wedding>

Preludes/Processionals

1. "Air" from Suite in D Major, J.S. Bach
2. Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, J.S. Bach
3. "Air" from *Water Music*, G.F. Handel
4. Aria, G.F. Handel
5. Canon in D, Johann Pachelbel
6. Prelude on "Rhosymedre", R.V. Williams
7. Berceuse, Louis Vierne
8. Fidelis, Percy Whitlock
9. Priere a Notre Dame, Leon Boellmann

Recessionals

1. Prince of Denmark's March, Jeremiah Clarke
2. Trumpet Tune, Andrew Carter
3. Fanfare, William Mathias
4. Toccata Brevis, Daniel Gawthrop
5. In Dir Ist Freude, J.S. Bach
6. "Hornpipe" from "Water Music", G.F. Handel
7. Now Thank we all our God, arr. Virgil Fox

Wedding Music FAQs

- *Do we have to use the staff organist at First Presbyterian Church?*
 - The Organist at First Presbyterian Church has the right of first refusal for all weddings using piano or organ music. That means that it is their right to play for your wedding if they are available. If you have a trained, professional organist, string quartet, harpists, etc that you prefer to use, please contact Ryan Croyle to discuss your preferences at your earliest convenience.
- *Can friends or family members play or sing in our ceremony? Can we hire a musician or other musical ensemble to play or sing with the Organist?*
 - Often couples choose a friend or relative to sing at their wedding—with less than professional results. We recommend using only trained, professional musicians for your ceremony. We recommend Anna Caccio, alto – ciaccio@gmail.com; or Jami Bale, violin or flute – jjbale2003@gmail.com. A short, day-of rehearsal is included in the organist's' fee, however, additional rehearsals are subject to a \$50/hour fee (1 hour minimum).
 - If extensive time and effort is required for coordinating music and/or rehearsal time for outside musicians or groups, this may also be subject to a \$50 coordination fee at the discretion of the Music Coordinator. **We'll always let you know if your choices will incur extra costs!!**
- *Are there guidelines for selecting music?*
 - Please select your wedding music from the above list. Instrumental and vocal soloist pieces must be sacred in nature. Pop music selections, even if only instrumental, are generally not permitted.
 - If you have a particular piece in mind for your wedding, or aren't happy with the selections provided, please contact Ryan Croyle as soon as possible to discuss other options. We want everyone to be happy with their music! Please note that selections outside of the list that require substantial additional effort and practice are subject to an additional fee of \$50-\$100 per piece at the discretion of the Organist.
 - The cost to purchase music needed for your wedding is your responsibility. The Organist will recommend the appropriate selections. New music is expected to be available to the Organist to practice at least 30 days prior to the ceremony.
- *What are the music deadlines?*
 - All music must be selected no later than 30 days prior to the ceremony.
 - If you need to purchase music for the Organist, these arrangements need to be made several weeks prior to the 30 day cut off in order to make sure music arrives in time.