

CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL – NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL
SACRED MUSIC FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

PLANNING GUIDE FOR SACRED MUSIC IN THE LITURGY

The Marriage Rite is a Sacrament of the Church, a solemn exchange of vows between a bride and a groom, and an act of worship through which the community offers thanks and praise for God's blessings on the couple's life together as husband and wife. All of the music before, during and after the wedding liturgy reflects on the Christian meaning of the Rite. Therefore, all music must conform to the local custom of the Cathedral of Saint Paul and be taken from the treasury of sacred repertoire.

Sacred music is sung prayer; put simply, music that has been created in petition or thanks to God. The Cathedral of Saint Paul offers sacred music to the glory of God. As the Mother Church for the Archdiocese and the seat of the Archbishop, liturgies offered at the Cathedral are modeled with excellence to the glory of God and the sanctification and edification of the faithful. Therefore, we uphold the most traditional guidelines of musical, liturgical and pastoral judgment of the Roman Catholic Church.

Music and musicians for all liturgical celebrations at the Cathedral of Saint Paul are provided exclusively by the Cathedral Sacred Music Department.

STEPS TO PLAN THE LITURGY

1. Once the engaged couple has:
 - a. Had the initial meeting with the Celebrant or Officiant
 - b. Selected the readings and Responsorial Psalm for their celebration from those provided
 - c. Requested the Wedding Party Template for the liturgy guide: lawyer@cathedralsaintpaul.org (please put the **date** and **time** of the wedding in the **subject line** of all email correspondence)
2. they are invited to listen to the music choices provided by the Cathedral Sacred Music Department on the cathedral website at www.cathedralsaintpaul.org/wedding-music
3. The engaged couple then completes the Wedding Celebration Planning Sheet they have been given
4. and submit it to Lawrence Lawyer (at least one month in advance of the wedding) either electronically as a PDF scan: lawyer@cathedralsaintpaul.org or as a hardcopy left to Mr. Lawyer's attention at the Cathedral Rectory along with a **count** for printing.

A member of the Sacred Music staff will confirm that your music has been received and a liturgy guide proof will be sent for review.

MUSICAL COMPONENTS AT WEDDINGS

Please note: The services of a cantor and organist are included in your wedding fee. We are happy to discuss ideas for additional musicians such as strings, trumpet, harp, and choir. The Cathedral books these, and early booking is recommended to ensure availability. Advance payment in full is required for additional musicians.

A. Prelude Music

The arrival of your wedding guests may be accompanied by instrumental and prayerful organ music. The music selected by the sacred music department is suitable to the Cathedral's instruments, acoustic, and joy of the occasion.

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B. Processional Music (*Instrumental*)

The procession is a liturgical action described in the Rite of Marriage, as the ritual entrance of the ministers for the liturgy. The couple, who minister to one another the sacrament of marriage, is included in the procession. This also reflects the Church's understanding that the bride and groom are complementary in marriage. The actual order of the procession may be planned with the presiding priest or deacon, led by an altar server or cross-bearer, and a reader carrying the Book of the Gospels, but equal attention should be given to both families. The procession and the music accompanying it should reflect the joyous dignity of the moment. Many appropriate selections were originally composed for royal or state, as well as religious occasions.

The so-called "traditional wedding marches" by Wagner and Mendelssohn and Pachelbel's "Canon" are not used. The Wagner and Mendelssohn are pieces for theater which do not complement the Sacred Liturgy. (The "Bridal Chorus" from Wagner's opera, *Lohengrin*, actually accompanies the couple to the bedroom, not the altar! Mendelssohn's incidental music to Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream* accompanies a farcical wedding (the play is a comedy). More importantly, they have been used to accompany "weddings" in countless movies, TV shows and game shows.) The majority of images these pieces conjure in the minds of the Assembly may certainly relate to sentiment, but not Catholic worship. Because of this, even though they are frequently used in the United States in Protestant churches or non-religious wedding settings, they are rarely used in Catholic churches. Pachelbel's *Canon* is not used for some of the same reasons, as the piece has become ubiquitous in secular culture.

Rigaudon - Georg Boehm
Prélude (from *Te Deum*) – Marc-Antoine Charpentier
The Prince of Denmark's March – Jeremiah Clarke
Trumpet Tune in D – David Johnson
Trumpet Voluntary – John Stanley
Deus Israel – Introit for Wedding Mass (sung)

– OR –

Processional Hymn (*Sung*)

On Sunday, the opening hymn acts as the "processional music", and an opening hymn can accompany a wedding procession in place of the selections above.

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, W588 (denotes WORSHIP pew hymnal)
All Creatures of Our God and King, W520
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee, W525
Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven, W530
O God, Beyond All Praising, W541

C. Responsorial Psalm (*select according to textual preference; not found at online listening*)

A brief period of reflective silence follows the first reading, then, the responsorial psalm is sung. The congregation sings the antiphon, with the cantor singing the verses.

Psalm 33, Psalm 34, Psalm 103, Psalm 145, Psalm 148, or Psalm 118 (during Easter Octave)

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D. Intercession to the Blessed Virgin Mary (*optional*)

Where the custom exists of placing flowers before Our Lady, a Marian song, or an instrumental piece is appropriate. It takes place after the Exchange of Rings in the Marriage Rite.

Regina Cæli – Gregorian Chant (during the season of Easter)
Salve Regina – Gregorian Chant (during the season of Ordinary Time)
Alma Redemptoris Mater – Gregorian Chant (Advent through February 1)
Ave Regina Cælorum – Gregorian Chant (February 2 through Good Friday)
Ave Maria (mode I) – Gregorian Chant
Ave Maria – Franz Schubert
Ave Maria – Bach/Gounod
Ave Maria in E – Camille Saint-Saëns
Ave maris stella – Gregorian Chant

E. Preparation (*at Masses*) and Meditation Music (*at Liturgy of the Word services*)

An instrumental or vocal selection or a congregational hymn (from the list for processions) may accompany the Presentation and Preparation of the Altar and Gifts. The music used here should not overly prolong this brief component of the liturgy.

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life – Ralph Vaughan Williams
O God of Love – Gerre Hancock
Ubi caritas – Gregorian Chant
A Nuptial Blessing – Richard Proulx
Adoro te devote – Gregorian Chant
Panis Angelicus – Gregorian Chant
Panis Angelicus - Camille Saint-Saëns
Panis Angelicus – César Franck

F. Communion Music (*at Masses*)

Congregational singing is appropriate here because it gives expression to our unity in the Body of Christ. Preferably a song with repeated refrain for the congregation should be sung. A suitable vocal or instrumental solo or a choral piece may also be used here.

God Is Love (Mandatum) – Richard Proulx
You Satisfy the Hungry Heart, W736
Ave verum – Gregorian Chant
Ave verum – Jean Langlais
Ecce sic benedicetur – Gregorian Chant – (Communio for Wedding Mass)
God is Love – A. Gregory Murray

G. Recessional Music

G. F. Handel – Hornpipe (from *Water Music*)
G. F. Handel – The Rejoicing (from *Royal Fireworks Music*)
Jacques Lemmens – Fanfare
Henry Purcell – Trumpet Tune
Benedetto Marcello – Psalm 19

Honored to be a part of your wedding liturgy, the Cathedral Sacred Music staff is always happy to answer any questions or help you in your planning.