

Common Questions

Ceremony

Processional, interlude and recessional ceremony music is the most important selections. Special request music for the ceremony is accepted and encouraged. There are audio samples and repertoire lists of the highly requested music and common choices for solo and ensembles on my website. The music is usually chosen 30-45 days prior to the wedding day..

Cocktail reception

Cocktail music is usually left up to the discretion of Rich Barry although a preferred direction and style can be helpful.

Prelude

Prelude music is usually thirty minutes and is the quintessential program of Rich Barry although a preferred direction and style can be applied..

Setup

Setup usually takes no more than 30 minutes. The equipment for amplification of the guitar, other instruments (if applicable) and the officiant and readers is seamless, simple and elegant. Wireless microphones and lapels and a L1 Bose Speakers are utilized.

A standard 120v plug is required within 100 feet of the performance area for amplification. The only requirement is a chair for each musician.

Emergency

In the case of an emergency on the day of the wedding a replacement is on deck with the needed music, equipment and talent. This is facilitated with synchronized calendars.

Dress

Depending on the event, the client can choose from business casual, black suit, and formal tuxedo. A pressed black suit and tie is the default.

Cue

A heads up around a minute before the procession begins will assure the perfect musical moment execution. Ten seconds is a perfect amount of silence that often serves as a cue for the members of the congregation to be silent for the procession.

Music Selection

CEREMONY PARTS

Prelude

Prelude is the music prior to the ceremony processions. It is generally 30 minutes of light classical, romantic songs and performed as guests are arriving and being seated. The choice of pieces during the prelude is often left to the discretion of the musician(s) although can be any style of music.

Bridal Party Processional

The wedding party processional marks the official beginning of the wedding ceremony. It should have a slow but flowing feel for ushering the mothers and grandmothers, bridesmaids and other members of the wedding party down the aisle. For some weddings, the same music is used for the wedding party and the bridal procession. Popular wedding music and music with personal significance to the bride and groom are often used for the ceremony processions. This can be initiated with the seating of the parents, the entrance of the officiant or the entrance of the groom. The length of pieces will be changed to fit the time of each procession.

Bridal Processional

Entrance processional of the wedding party and bride is generally very stately, elegant music at a walking tempo. The bridal processional is usually a separate music from the bridal party processional. The bridal processional is the most personal and important music in the ceremony. There should be a brief 3-5 second pause between the bridal party procession and the bride's procession. Sometimes a wedding coordinator, assistant or guest gives a cue.

Interlude (Optional)

The interlude can actually be many different moments in the wedding ceremony. For most wedding ceremonies, the interlude is the unity candle, memorial candle, or rose presentation. These are moments of quiet reflection, and the wedding music you choose should complement this mood. Types of interlude include rope ceremony, sand ceremony, butterfly release, and poetry reading.

Recessional

Departure of the wedding party from the ceremony site is generally celebratory and jubilant music. Guest generally depart immediately or very soon after the wedding party to reception area or site. This is the last music for the ceremony. Please check out the wedding music pages of this site for examples of recessional music selections.

Postlude

The postlude to your wedding sets a pleasant atmosphere as guests are leaving. It can last between 5 and 10 minutes, so it's best to treat the postlude like the prelude music and simply give the musicians an idea of what you want. Experienced wedding musicians will play postlude music that is refined but upbeat, adding the finishing touch to your wedding. The postlude can help signal to guests that they should change to the cocktail reception.

CLASSIC

Canon in D major by Johann Pachelbel
Builds intensity and emotion and flexible

Ave Maria by Franz Schubert
Traditionally grateful or mother's music

Bridal Chorus by Richard Wagner
Standard and popular traditional bridal piece

Prelude - E Major Violin Partita by Johann S. Bach
Upbeat and optimistic

Prelude No. 1 of WTC by Johann S. Bach
Traditional and formal wedding march

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desire by Johann S. Bach
Slowly and reverently played

Wedding March by Felix Mendelssohn
Grand and a bit serious

Air on the G String by Johann S. Bach
Gradually builds emotion with long phrases

Trumpet Voluntary by Jeremiah Clarke
Elegant piece Prince of Denmark's March

Romance by Traditional
Beautiful and Romantic

UNIQUE

Andante in A minor by Johann S. Bach
Elegant and Processional

Evocacion by Jose Merlin
Slowly and reverently played

Recuerdos by Francisco Tarrega
Bright and Cheerful

Cavatina by Stanley Myers
Reserved and classic sounding

Allegro from BWV 1003 by Johann S. Bach
Energetic piece for Bridal party

Presto in G minor by Johann Sebastian Bach
Energetic piece for Bridal party