



# The Ceremony

Ceremony Site Worksheets  
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Ceremony Music Suggestions

# Ceremony Site Interview **Worksheet**

Name of Ceremony Site \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Coordinator/Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a membership or attendance requirement to be married in this church? YES NO

Is pre-marital counselling required? YES NO

Clergyman or Officiate \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Clergyman fee \_\_\_\_\_ Church rental fee \_\_\_\_\_

Organist fee \_\_\_\_\_ Soloist fee \_\_\_\_\_

Amount due to reserved church for wedding \_\_\_\_\_

Balance due \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Seating capacity \_\_\_\_\_

Sitting and standing capacity \_\_\_\_\_

Center aisle? YES NO Two side aisles? YES NO  
Center aisle and two side aisles? YES NO

Does the site provide:

Candelabra's

Kneeling bench

Aisle runner

Canopy

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

How much time will we have?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How big a wedding party fits comfortably in front of the altar, & OR on the stage?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Can we write our vows, choose our own music, readings? YES NO

\_\_\_\_\_

Directions to ceremony site

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Restrictions and Requirements Are there any restrictions on ceremony dress (should the bride's and maid's shoulders be covered)? YES NO

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Photography (restrictions and requirements)

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Videography (restrictions and requirements)

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Music (restrictions and requirements)

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Musical instruments provided (piano, organ)

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Soloists, Musicians available

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PA setup, Microphone, Speakers (restrictions and requirements)

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Electrical (restrictions and requirements)

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Throwing of rice/birdseed (restrictions and requirements)

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Early entry for setup and decorating (restrictions and requirements)

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Decorating (restrictions and requirements)

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Cleanup (requirements)

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Parking (restrictions and requirements)

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Is there a reception facility on premises? Yes/No

Rental fee \_\_\_\_\_ Hours available \_\_\_\_\_

Notes

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# Ceremony Site Comparison Sheet

## Site #1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimate \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Site #2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimate \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Site #3

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimate \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Site #4

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimate \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### FINAL CHOICE

Ceremony Site \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Budgeted Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Actual Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Balance: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Date Balance Due \_\_\_\_\_

# Choosing Your Ceremony Music

Music is the most universal expression of joy. From the moment your guests arrive at your wedding site, your choice of music will set the mood and expression for your special day.

Choose music that will compliment the atmosphere that you wish to achieve such as religious, classically elegant, contemporary or perhaps a mixture of styles. Many brides prefer a traditional classical wedding ceremony while others will select music that will enhance a special theme that they have chosen for their wedding such as Baroque, New Age, Classical, Jazz or Scottish, Irish or Celtic.

If you are being married in a church it is always wise to check out the music policies with the music staff to avoid disappointment. Protestant churches usually allow a mixture of popular and religious music. Some Catholic clergy may ask that you avoid popular music in favor of religious selections and hymns sung at regular masses. For Jewish weddings, secular music, including the usual wedding marches, is permitted at many Reform and Conservative weddings, but Orthodox rabbis may prefer you use only traditional music.

If your church has no restrictions regarding the type of music you can choose for your wedding, good taste should always prevail. Many songs which are "hits" at the moment, do not last in popularity beyond a few months. It would be best for those selections to be played or sung at your reception. Ask yourself: Will the music I choose from my wedding today be the memory I want in the years to come?

## **There are generally five categories of music at wedding ceremonies:**

The pre-wedding or "Prelude" music sets the theme for the actual ceremony. This usually begins approximately thirty minutes before the ceremony is scheduled to begin while guests are being seated. The music selections are often light and lively, and played in a low volume allowing guests to converse.

Music for the entrance of the Bridesmaids is usually more formal, and presented at a higher volume than the pre-ceremony music. Although marches are popular, other beautiful classical selections such as Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" and Pachelbel's "Canon In D" are often selected.

The first notes of the "Processional" music announce the arrival of the Bride and inform the guests to stand! Because of this, processional music should be joyful and triumphant. Wagner's "Here Comes The Bride" is the overwhelming choice of Brides to enter their wedding ceremony area. Brides who are marrying for the second time or more often select a less formal musical selection.

During the ceremony, a soloist may sing or play a musical instrument just before the actual wedding vows begin. This is called the "Interlude" Music. Sometimes a reading

by a guest may substitute for music. This activity allows the Bride and Groom time to pause, catch their breath, and more fully enjoy the moment!

The "Recessional" music usually begins immediately after the officiant introduces the new couple to the guests as husband and wife. Like the processional, this music is generally joyful and triumphant. It is often accompanied with the ringing of church bells or chimes. Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" is the music selection chosen by most newlyweds at the conclusion of their wedding ceremony.

# Ceremony Music Suggestions

## Top 10 Prelude Ceremony Songs

The prelude is the thirty to forty-five minutes before the bride arrives for the ceremony.

This allows the guests to be seated, and it gives them a chance to relax and reflect. Many couples choose to play soothing, unobtrusive selections that set a peaceful tone.

1. Adagio from Santana in E-Flat (*Mozart*)
2. Air from Water Music (*Handel*)
3. Air on the G String (from orchestral suite #3) (*Bach*)
4. Allegro from Brandenburg Concerto #4 in G (*J.S. Bach*)
5. Courante from Three Lute Dances
6. Nocturne in E Flat, Op.9 No. 2 (*Chopin*)
7. Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun (*Debussy*)
8. So this is Love Instrumental "Cinderella" (*David, Hoffman, Livingston*)
9. Waltz (From Sleeping Beauty, Act 1) (*Tchaikovsky*)
10. Spring (*Four Seasons Vivaldi*)

## Top 10 Processional Ceremony Songs

The Processional begins when the mother of the bride is seated and the bride starts her walk down the aisle. This calls for dramatic or uplifting music that draws attention to the beautiful bride!

1. Traditional Wedding March (*Mendelssohn or Wagner*)
2. Ave Maria (*Harry Conick, Jr.*)
3. Canon in D (*Pachelbel*)
4. Arioso (*Bach*)
5. Dodi Li (*Steven Sher*)
6. Erev Ba (*Shoshana Damari*)
7. Sleeper's awake (*Bach, Johann Sebastian*)
8. Heroic Marches (*Telemann*)
9. Processional to Tedeum (*Charpentier*)
10. Romance from String Quartet (*Mozart*)

### **Top 10 Interlude Ceremony Songs**

During a wedding ceremony there are some pauses. Many couples fill those pauses with music that maintains a joyous and solemn mood, reflecting on the excitement and sacredness of the vows they are about to take. Make sure you check with your Officiate about the music you choose to make sure it's acceptable. Some even have lists of what music is appropriate for all parts of the ceremony.

Air-Sheep May Safely Graze - Bach  
Amen! Praise and Glory - Peacock  
Ave Maria - Schubert and Gounod  
Let there be Peace on Earth  
Spring – Four Seasons - Vivaldi  
O Mio Babbino Caro (Gianna Schicchi) - Puccini  
Lords Prayer  
The Call From Five Mystical Songs - Vaughan Williams  
Cavalleria Rusticana - Intermezzo Mascagni  
Sinfonia - Johann Sebastian Bach

### **Top 10 Recessional Songs**

Finally...the moment we've all been waiting for! The bride and groom have kissed, they are now husband and wife. They start their lives together with a walk up the aisle. This calls for lively and festive music to enhance the excitement of the newly married couple.

1. Traditional Wedding March (A Midsummer Night's Dream) (*Mendelssohn*)
2. Autumn – Four Seasons (*Vivaldi*)
3. Siman Tov
4. Ode to Joy (*Beethoven*)
5. Love me Tender (*Phillharmonic Wedding Ensemble*)
6. Sonata in G *Tartini*
7. Air – On the G String (from Orchestral suite No. 3) (*Bach*)
8. Hornpipe – Water Music (*Handel*)
9. First Movement from Brandenburg Concerto #1 in F (*Johann Sebastian Bach*)
10. Inseparable (*Natalie Cole*)