

Music Guidelines

Music can be a very important part of your wedding service. It can help to lead and support you and your guests in worship. Special care will need to be taken by you and the organist to make this happen. This is your opportunity to make the service uniquely yours by choosing music that gives honor to God and reflects your relationship to Him through Jesus Christ.

It is the responsibility of the couple to choose an organist for your wedding. Your wedding coordinator will be able to provide the names of organists who have played at Webster Gardens and their contact information. You should plan to select and contact your organist three to four months before your wedding. You will need to make an appointment with the organist to determine the music for the processional, recessional, solos, hymns and instruments, etc.

The wedding service that you are planning is different from many other wedding services in that it is a Christian wedding. The wedding ceremony should be characterized not only by dignity, reverence and joy, but by the very spirit of Christ Himself. The Christian wedding service is a joyful act of God-directed, Christ-centered worship. It is God who should be uppermost in your wedding service, and in the hearts and minds of those who attend.

With those thoughts in mind, the music should be chosen with care and should keep Christ as the focus of the service. The words and music contribute to the worship atmosphere of the service. The words of the songs should correspond to themes which are appropriate in a Christian marriage. Examples of appropriate themes are God's love for the church displayed through Christ which is the foundation for the love a man and a woman share; God's blessing for the marriage; and the praise of God expressed when Christians rejoice. You will meet with the pastor to coordinate all other aspects of your wedding service.

Organ Music:

In selecting organ music for the processional and recessional, there are many fine selections, which help to do more than just "get you down the aisle." Music based on hymns of praise are very suitable and worshipful. Paul Manz's "Praise to the Lord" is an example of this type of Chorale Prelude. There are other examples of processional and recessional music which, though not specifically based on a hymn tune, are still consistent with a Christ-centered worship. Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" is an example of this kind of music. Some suggestions are:

"Praise to the Lord" *Manz*

"In Thee Is Gladness" *Bach*

"Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus" *Gieschen*

"Trumpet Tune" *Purcell*

"Psalm XIX" *Marcello*

"Lord of Glory, Who Has Bought Us" *Manz*

"Now Thank We All Our God" *Bach*

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" *Bach*

"La Rejouissance" *Handel*

"Little Preludes and Fugue" *Bach*

Soloist:

The use of the solo voice is another source of special music for the wedding service. Many of the hymns suitable for congregational singing may also be sung as solos. In addition, there are many other beautiful solo pieces especially suitable for the Christian wedding.

“Jesus Shepherd Be Thou Near Me” <i>Bach</i>	“My Heart Ever Faithful” <i>Bach</i>
“A Wedding Benediction” <i>Lovelace</i>	“Blessing” <i>Sleeth</i>
“Heavenly Father, Send Thy Blessings”	“The Lord Bless You and Keep You” <i>Lutkin</i>
“The King of Love My Shepherd Is” <i>Schalk</i>	“The Gift of Love” <i>Holsen</i>
“Psalm 128” <i>Gelineau</i>	“Go Now in Peace” <i>Price/Besig</i>
“Wedding Song” Anonymous	“Children of the Heavenly Father” <i>Traditional</i>
“The Lord Is My Shepherd” (<i>Brother James Air</i>) <i>Jacobs</i>	

Hymns:

You may want to consider including some congregational singing. Some recommended hymns are:

#444 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”	#253 “Oh Perfect Love”
#452 “Sing Praise to God the Highest Good”	#467 “Oh Blest the House”
#443 “Now Thank We All Our God”	#381 “Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus”
#415 “All Depends on Our Possessing”	#379 “Come Follow Me, Said Christ”
#442 “In You Is Gladness”	#287 “Abide With Us, Our Savior”
#160 “O Holy Spirit, Enter In”	

In addition to these, there are many contemporary Christ-centered songs that would be appropriate. These include:

“If You Could See What I See,” “The Vow,” and “Bless the Broken Road” *Geoff Moore & the Distance*
“I’ll Be Here” and “Go There With You” *Stephen Curtis Chapman*
“The Other Side of Me” *Michael W. Smith*
“How Beautiful” *Twila Paris*
“1 Corinthians 13” *Kip Fox*
“This Day” *John Lavik*
“Be the Center” *Frye*
“I Could Sing of Your Love Forever” *Moore/Chapman*
“When I Say I Do” *Michael West*