

St. Christopher's Wedding Music Information

This information is provided for your convenience. There is more information here than any one couple has ever asked; yet, these questions are asked frequently. As, you glance through the following FAQ's, you may find answers to many of your questions.

Most weddings at St. Christopher's involve an Organist and a Vocalist for the music. The parts of the wedding are listed below.

The Prelude:

The Organist plays a 15-minute program of light classical prelude music while guests arrive - almost all of one's guests typically arrive in the last 10 minutes before the published start time of the wedding. These selections are usually chosen by the organist, but if the couple has requests those will also be incorporated into the prelude music. If requested, the Vocal Soloist can also sing one or two pieces during the prelude.

Seating of the Mothers/Grandmothers – (Optional)

The mothers and grandmothers are seated at the end of the preludes – just before the wedding procession begins. Couples can request a special piece for this time, or leave that up to the organist. Suggested pieces are "Gentle Woman" by Carey Landry, "A Mother's Prayer" by Celine Dion or any of the organ preludes that you do not use for the Bridesmaids or Bride.

The Processionals:

The Organist plays one or two instrumental selections for both the entrance of the

- Bridesmaids, (Flower Girls, and Ring Bearer,) and Maid of Honor
- The Bride

The Liturgy of the Word:

- After the First Reading the Responsorial Psalm may be sung by the Cantor with the guests singing the refrain of the Psalm. Please choose the Psalm that you like from the "Together For Life" book, I will choose the music setting. Note that some of the words may be different in the song than in the book. You will be provide with the sung words.
- The Gospel Acclamation before the Gospel Reading may also be sung by all.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist (for Weddings within Mass):

- During the Preparation of the Gifts a hymn may be sung by all, or a vocal solo sung by the Soloist, or an instrumental selection might be played.
- During the Eucharistic Prayers (for weddings within a mass) all sing the Holy, Holy, the Memorial Acclamation, the Amen, and the Lamb of God.
- The Reception of Communion (for Weddings within Mass): A hymn sung by all is most preferred.
- Before the end of the wedding (following Communion if within Mass) some Brides place a bouquet of flowers beneath the statue of Mary – often the Ave Maria is sung or played
- The Recessional: After the final blessing and presentation of the Couple, the Wedding Party exits the church. Music is played for this.

Below is a list of music selections that have become the “traditional” wedding marches that are popularly requested for Catholic weddings:

Please remember: Brides and Grooms often may not recognize a piece of music by its title; but, will often recognize the selection upon hearing the music. These liturgically appropriate selections have become today’s “traditional” wedding marches. Wedding processionals (and recessionals) can be either triumphantly loud or gently quieter - both styles are popular. Many of the selections listed below can be found as MP3’s on the Internet; however, orchestral recordings will sound quite different than it will sound on the organ, even though one is hearing the same piece of music. Recorded music is not permitted in Catholic churches when competent musicians are available.

Some of the popular louder - more triumphant – processional/Recessional selections include:

Allegro Maestoso “Hornpipe”–George Frederick Handel (from the Water Music Suite)
Allegro “La Réjouissance”–George Frederick Handel (from the Royal Fireworks Suite)
Allegro (Autumn)–Antonio Vivaldi (1st movement of Autumn from the Four Seasons)
Allegro (Spring)–Antonio Vivaldi (1st movement of Spring from the Four Seasons)
Bridal Chorus – Wagner
Minuet – George Frederick Handel (from the Water Music Suite)
“Ode to Joy” – Ludwig von Beethoven
Overture – George Frederick Handel (from the Royal Fireworks Suite)
Presto – George Frederick Handel (from the Water Music Suite)
Trumpet Fanfare – Henry Purcell
Trumpet Tune – Henry Purcell
Trumpet Voluntary – Jeremiah Clarke (“the Prince of Denmark's March”)
Wedding March - Mendelssohn

Some of the popular quieter - more gentle - processional selections include:

Air on a G String - J. S. Bach
Air - George Frederick Handel (from the Water Music Suite) Arioso
- J. S. Bach (Sinfonia Cantata 156; 2nd mvmt.
Ave Maria - Franz Schubert (instrumental)
Canon in D - Johann Pachelbel
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring - J. S. Bach (from Cantata no. 147)
Largo (Winter) - Antonio Vivaldi (2nd movement of Winter from the Four Seasons)
Prelude no.1 in C - J. S. Bach
*Sheep May Safely Graze - J. S. Bach (from Cantata no. 208)
Note: All the above selections are also ideal for prelude music.

Gathering Song

"Blest Are They" – Davis Haas
"For the Beauty of the Earth" – Folliott Pierpoint
"Gather us Together" – Laurence Rosania
"Here in This Place" – Chris Muglia
"The Summons" – John Bell
"We Gather Together" – Anonymous

Wedding Responsorial Psalms

Psalm 33 "The Earth Is Full of Beauty, The Goodness of a Loving God" GC 45; ref. 2 -
Marty Haugen
Psalm 34 "I Will Bless the Lord" - Normand Gouin
Psalm 34 "Taste and See" GC 47 - Marty Haugen
Psalm 103 "The Lord Is Kind and Merciful
Psalm 112 "Happy are those who do ..."
Psalm 128 "Blest Are Those Who Love You"
Psalm 145 "Our God Is Compassion" 7: Psalm
148 "Let all praise the name ..."

**Song Suggestions for The Preparation of the Gifts
(for Wedding within a Mass only)**

"Ave Maria" – Bach or Schubert (if not used in another place in the Mass)
"Loving and Forgiving" – Scott Soper
"Servant Song" – Richard Gillard
"The Prayer of St. Francis" – Sabastian Temple
"Where Love is Found" – Dan Schutte
"You Are Mine" – David Haas

Song Suggestions for Communion (For wedding within a Mass only)

“Behold the Lamb” – Martin Willett
“I Am The Bread of Life” – Suzanne Toolan
“Bread of Life” – David Haas
“Pan de Vida” – Jamie Cortez
“Panis Angelicus” – Cesar Franck
“Taste and See” – Robert Moore
“Spirit and Grace” – Rick Modlin
“Miracle of Grace” – Curtis Stephen
“The Supper of the Lord” – Laurence Rosania
“To Be Your Bread” – Marty Haugen
“Ubi Caritas” – Bob Hurd

How can I find a vocalist and an organist?

Maryalice (the Parish Music Director) is also the primary vocalist for the parish she sings for the majority of weddings at St. Christopher's. There are several experienced organists who play for our weddings. If she is not available for your wedding she will arrange for another skilled vocalist.

Can we have an Organist or Soloist from another church, or a family member provide the music for our wedding?

Yes, you may have your musician play for your wedding. You will need to consult with Maryalice to coordinate rehearsal times for the musicians and to plan the Liturgy. She will verify that your music selections meet the criteria for appropriate music in a Catholic wedding. The fee for the music director will still apply.

We want to hire a String Trio, String Quartet, Harpist, Trumpet player, etc. ... do you allow these?

Yes, that is fine. Please remember that you will be required to consult with Maryalice to verify that your music selections meet the criteria for appropriate music in a Catholic wedding and to determine what parts of the mass will be played/sung by whom. The fees for the music director will still apply.

What are fees for Wedding Music at St. Christopher's? Also, to whom and when do we pay the fees?

Maryalice Davis, Director of Music and Ministry Maryalice@stchristopherski.org should be contacted by the couple six months prior to the wedding date regarding appropriate music arrangements. Scheduling of the church does not automatically include the musician's services. Fees: \$250 for Maryalice Davis (includes vocals and consultation), \$200 for the organist.

Maryalice will provide the names of the musicians as soon as you need them for your program. Fees must be mailed to the Parish Office no later than **TWO MONTHS** prior to your wedding. The fees should be written to the named musician in separate payments. The fees for music are separate from the fees paid to the church.

Maryalice Davis
St. Christopher's Church
1861 Harbor Drive
Chester, MD 21619