



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PITTSBURGH

awakening a new generation to life in Christ

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Wedding Music Guidelines

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! The primary purpose of the wedding service is to glorify God, and for this reason, we recommend the following musical selections at the bottom of this page.

Please complete your selections **no less than 30 days prior to the marriage service**.

If you are interested in contracting any special groups (string quartet, vocalists, other instrumentalists), the sooner we can get those groups contracted, the better. Elaine Fink (efink@fpcp.org) can assist you in selecting special musicians or groups to play at your service; however, **contracting and paying these musicians is the responsibility of the wedding party**. All outside musicians/groups must be approved by the Music Coordinator at least 30 days prior to the service.

Here is a breakdown of how our wedding service music proceeds:

- Prelude: 20-30 minutes of traditional selections on piano or organ
- Processional – Two organ selections to cover the following:
 - Bridal Party/Family Entry
 - Bridal Procession – entrance of the bride
- Special Music/Unity Candle/Rose Ceremony (if desired by the couple, but not required)
- Recessional – Rousing organ selection as the couple and wedding party exits the church

Selections for Weddings

This list is not a limit of available selections, but the organist reserves first right of refusal for selections outside of this list. If you have a particular piece in mind, it is best to express this as far in advance of the service as possible.

Processional Music (pick 2)

1. Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring – J.S. Bach
2. Largo from Xerxes – G.F. Handel
3. Canon in D – Johann Pachelbel
4. Bridal Chorus – Richard Wagner

Recessional Music (pick 1)

1. Prince of Denmark's March – Jeremiah Clarke
2. Toccata Brevis – Daniel Gawthrop
3. Wedding March – Felix Mendelssohn
4. Crown Imperial – William Walton

Wedding Music FAQs

1. **Do we have to use the staff organist at First Presbyterian Church?**

The Organist at First Presbyterian Church has the right of first refusal for all weddings using piano or organ music. That means that it is their right to play and be compensated for your wedding if they are available. If you have a trained, professional organist, string quartet, harpists, etc that you prefer to use, please contact Alaine Fink (afink@fpcp.org) to discuss your preferences at your earliest convenience.

2. **Can friends or family members play or sing in our service? Can we hire a musician or other musical ensemble to play or sing with the Organist?**

Often couples choose a friend or relative to sing at their wedding—with less than professional results. We recommend using only trained, professional musicians for your service. A brief, day-of rehearsal is included in the organist's fee; however, additional rehearsals with soloists are subject to a \$50/hour fee (1 hour minimum).

3. **Are there guidelines for selecting music?**

Please select your processional and recessional music from the above list. Instrumental and vocal soloist pieces chosen for special music must be sacred in nature. Pop music selections, even if only instrumental, are generally not permitted. Requests will not be honored for prelude music.

If you have a particular piece in mind for your wedding or aren't happy with the selections provided, please contact Alaine Fink as soon as possible to discuss other options. We want everyone to be happy with their music! Please note that selections outside of the list that require substantial additional effort and practice are subject to an additional fee of \$50-\$100 per piece at the discretion of the Organist.

4. **What are the music deadlines?**

All music must be selected no later than 30 days prior to the service. If you have not selected music within 30 days of the service, it is best to stick to the music listed above. Reach out to Alaine Fink ASAP to get the conversation started – we want to work with you to make this a special day!