



The Ceremony

For a musician, the ceremony is broken up in five sections:

- the prelude
- the processional of the bridal party
- the processional of the bride
- the interlude
- the recessional/postlude.

The prelude is the time *prior* to the ceremony service, and is generally 15-20 minutes. Your ceremony becomes magical when your guests walk in and are greeted by live music. It's something about that three-dimensional aspect a live musician brings that alters the atmosphere and takes an ordinary moment into a memorable occasion. Everyone enjoys watching a live musician and how perfect to give your guests some enchanting entertainment as they are sitting and anxiously waiting to hear you say your "I DO's". The instruments you pick and the ensemble you choose will create the mood in the room and thus experience and memories your family and friends will cherish. You can read more about the ambiances created by specific instruments on the musicians offered page.

Choosing a few pieces of music is helpful in letting us know the type of atmosphere you desire. Some of our clients request a mostly classical repertoire while others request a mix including classical, show tunes, contemporary music and religious selections. Should you have a favorite song or classical piece that is not in our standard repertoire, we will be happy to try accommodate those requests when possible. We do not recommend that you choose the entire program for your prelude or even cocktail hour. Our musicians are skilled in discerning what your guests enjoy and will tailor the program once you give us an idea of the mood you wish to create.

The processional is the next two segments of your ceremony. The first part of the processional is the entrance of the officiant, seating of the family, groom's entrance and the entrance of the bridal party. The second part of processional is the bride's entrance. The first part of the processional should be 1-2 pieces, depending on how many people will be walking down the aisle. (The reason you would not want more is because the music will then become choppy instead of smooth because the musicians would need to stop and restart the new piece verses continuing to repeat the original selection).



Upon listening to selections, you can hear how some suggestions are regal and march-like and some are sweet-sounding melodies. First you should decide which you prefer for yourself (bride's entrance); as, if you prefer a sweet lyrical piece your entrance, your bridal party should also walk down to an agreeable pleasing melody verses a piece that is majestic and stately. You would not want your bridal party to walk down to a melody that is bold and then your beautiful entrance sound inferior in tempo and timbre. (so again, if your entrance is sweet and lyrical, so should your bridal party). However, if you enter upon a grandiose piece, your bridal party can go either way. You can either keep the theme of a royal entrance or have your court walk down to that sweet tuneful melody so that your entrance is more brilliant. This is THE moment and the music should portray the theme you've envisioned.

(not all weddings have an interlude, but if you have a Catholic Mass, Unity Candle or Sand Ceremony, you do have an interlude where you can select more beautiful music to enchant your guests)

The Interlude is music during the ceremony which is appropriate during a Mass, unity candle or sand ceremony. Music adds to this break in words as your guests watch in admiration. The Ave Maria (Schubert), Lord's Prayer (Mallotte), Amazing Grace, or even contemporary favorites such as "You Light Up My Life", Josh Groban's "You Raise Me Up" or Andre Bocelli and Celine Dion's classic "The Prayer" are lovely songs that fit perfectly during this segment of your ceremony.

The Recessional is the exit of the bride and groom and the bridal party and family. The commencement is usually marked by the bridal kiss or the announcement of the newly married couple. Music should be powerful and grand as your guests will be cheering and clapping and the music should compliment this joyous moment. A quick tempo with a regal melody is best suited. Fast and triumphant melodies that are favorite amongst brides are: The Bridal March (Mendelssohn), Ode to Joy (Beethoven), Hornpipe Allegro Maestoso (Handel), and Rondau (Mouret).

The Postlude is the 5-10 minutes after the recessional where Master Musicians will perform upbeat and festive music until the guests exit the venue.



A Recap:

♪ The ceremony for a musician is a full hour. The musician will start 20 minutes prior to the service, as to greet your guests as they arrive and set the mood of love that you desire. Then the service itself is about 20-30 minutes (45-1 hour if with a Catholic Mass or a Greek Orthodox ceremony), which leaves another 10-15 minutes at the end for the recessional and exit of your guests.

♪ If you have under 6 members in your bridal party (including flower girls and/or ring bearers) and under 4 family members to be seated at the beginning of the processional, we strongly suggest one (1) piece of music for the family (grandparents, parents, etc.) and the bridesmaids combined. Otherwise, you may choose a separate piece for the Seating of the Family and for the bridal Party Processional.

♪ If you want the most impact for your (bride's) entrance, we suggest not having your bridal party walk down to a similar style piece. We suggest that your bridal party walk down to a slower sweeter piece as to give you a more grandiose entrance.

♪ Determine at what points, if any, during the ceremony you will require music, e.g. the lighting of a unity candle, sand ceremony, communion, etc... A detailed program or description should be given to us, so that the musicians will know exactly where to play interlude pieces when requested.

♪ For the recessional, a grand piece should be selected to commemorate this joyous moment. The musicians will need to know if the officiator will **introduce the couple** after the breaking of the glass (Jewish weddings), or after the kiss, so that the musicians will know to wait for the introduction and not start performing as the glass is broken or the kiss is being made.



Special Requests:

Upon hiring us, we will send you a suggested repertoire sheet to assist you in your selections.

Special requests should be given to us at least 30 days prior to your wedding date. Should we need to purchase music or adapt music for your contracted ensemble, there will be a financial cost added to your total bill.

Should you need our musicians to accompany a musician that is not part of our association, we highly suggest a rehearsal to ensure that the performance is flawless. The lowest cost to you for this rehearsal is to have the musicians booked 15 minutes to a ½ hour earlier than their performance time.

Ceremony Horror!

Imagine walking down to NOTHING?! Can you imagine walking down the aisle to nothing but the sound of your own heart beating?

Imagine walking down to song on a CD, and the CD player takes a few moments to load and doesn't start until you are half-way down the aisle! Or a song that has a long musical intro before the words begin: and the lyrics don't start until you have already started your entrance, and the vocals are in the middle of a phrase when you reach your groom... and then the music abruptly stops or continues as you stand there for a minute or so as the musical phrase ends! Yikes!

This is why it is so perfect to have live musicians. Our musicians have performed for countless weddings and know the intricacies and thus shape the music according to what is happening live! (the musician may repeat a few musical bars or slow the tempo so that it ends perfectly as you reach your groom).

An unforeseen circumstance happens and your wedding starts ½ an hour late! Having a live musician entertaining your guests gives your guests enjoyment and assists with passing the time until the ceremony can start. By having musicians captivating your guests with their sweet melodies does not compare to piped in music.

These are examples to illustrate the importance of live music during your wedding ceremony.

PLUS, no other single element of your celebration has the power to move your guests and engage their emotions the way beautiful music does.