



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH WEDDING MUSIC GUIDELINES & SUGGESTIONS

Thank you for choosing St. Francis Xavier Parish to celebrate your Sacrament of Marriage! In choosing music for a wedding mass or wedding ceremony, it is important to remember that as a sacrament – a holy union - all musical choices must emphasize God’s love for you, your love for God, the love of community for you, your love for them and how they support and confirm your love for each other. Thus, the lyrics of songs chosen for the wedding liturgy should express the Christian concept of life, rather than one which is purely secular. The texts must always be in conformity with Catholic doctrine; indeed, they should be drawn chiefly from Holy Scripture, and from liturgical sources.¹ If you do not have any preferences for music, the Director of Music & Liturgy can select the music that would be suitable for the liturgy. For further questions or to request a meeting to help plan the music, please contact the Joshua Condon, Director of Music & Liturgy, at joshua.condon@sfxphx.org or 602-212-4507.

MUSICIANS/INSTRUMENTS

Your wedding fee includes a pianist/organist and a cantor. Outside musicians must be approved by the Director of Music & Liturgy. If using the parish-provided musicians, please indicate your preference on whether you would like the organ or piano (or both) to be played. To inquire about including other musicians in your ceremony, please contact the Director of Music & Liturgy.

PRELUDE MUSIC

Instrumental music may be played while guests are being seated. If desired, a sung piece of music may be used here so long as it conforms to the requirements mentioned in the first paragraph.

ENTRANCE RITE

It is most common to have either (1) one piece of music for the seating of parents (and any optional candle lighting), the procession of the bridal party and the bride; or (2) a first piece of music for the seating of parents (and any optional candle lighting) and the procession of the bridal party, and a second piece of music for the entrance of the bride. *If only one piece of music is chosen to cover the entire Entrance Rite, it can be arranged that there is a musical change at the entrance of the bride.*

NOTE: Click on the titles below to listen to examples. These YouTube links will contain piano examples, to see organ examples of some of the same music, please go to the last page.

Instrumental Suggestions:

- [Canon in D \(Pachelbel\)](#)
- [Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring \(Bach\)](#)
- [Trumpet Tune \(Purcell/Clarke\)](#)
- [Trumpet Voluntary/Prince of Denmark’s March \(Clarke\)](#)

Song suggestions:

- [Set Me as a Seal \(Maher\)](#)
- [In Love We Choose to Live \(Cotter\)](#)
- Other songs that focus on giving God praise and thanksgiving are also appropriate here.

¹ Constitution on Sacred Liturgy, Vatican Council II: #121

THE MASS SETTING

The “Mass setting” consists of the acclamations sung by the congregation that are part of the prescribed prayers of the Mass. *Note: If the ceremony is not a full mass, we will only sing the Gospel Acclamation.*

1. Glory to God (*this can be omitted if desired*)
2. Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia/Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ
3. Eucharistic Acclamations: Holy, Holy, Holy / We Proclaim Your Death / Amen / Lamb of God

We offer a traditional, well-known setting of these prayers as the default option at a wedding:

[-Mass of Creation \(Haugen\)](#)

However, a more contemporary option, which we use at weekend masses, is also an option:

[-Mass of St. Ann \(Bolduc\)](#)

RESPONSORAL PSALM

Default psalm:

[-Psalm 128 – May the Lord Bless Us \(Haugen\)](#)

Other options:

[-Psalm 33 – The Earth is Full of the Goodness of Our God \(Haugen\)](#)

[-Psalm 34 – Taste & See \(Haugen\)](#)

[-Psalm 103 – The Lord is Kind and Merciful \(Cotter\)](#)

[-Psalm 146 – Our God is Compassion \(Cotter\)](#)

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Instrumental suggestions:

[-Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring \(Bach\)](#)

[-Ave Maria \(Bach/Gounod\)](#)

Song suggestions:

[-Set Me as a Seal \(Maher\)](#)

[-Love Never Fails \(Canedo/Manibusan\)](#)

[-When Love is Found \(Wren\)](#)

[-A Nuptial Blessing \(Joncas\)](#)

[-Ave Maria \(Bach/Gounod\)](#)

COMMUNION

Instrumental suggestions:

[-Ave Maria \(Bach/Gounod\)](#)

[-Panis Angelicus \(Franck\)](#)

Song suggestions:

[-Set Me as a Seal \(Maher\)](#)

[-How Beautiful \(Paris\)](#)

[-Miracle of Grace \(Stephan\)](#)

[-Taste & See \(Moore\)](#)

[-One Bread, One Body \(Foley\)](#)

[-Ave Maria \(Bach/Gounod\)](#)

[-Panis Angelicus \(Franck\)](#)

[-We Are One Body \(Scallon\)](#)

RECESSIONAL

Unless a sung song is specifically desired (and conforms to the liturgical requirements), the Recessional music will be instrumental.

Instrumental suggestions:

[-Wedding March from A Midsummer Night’s Dream \(Mendelssohn\)](#)

[-Trumpet Voluntary/Prince of Denmark’s March \(Clarke\)](#)

[-Overture from Royal Fireworks Suite \(Handel\)](#)

[-Hornpipe from Water Music \(Handel\)](#)

[-Rondeau from Premier Suite \(Mouret\)](#)

MUSIC FOR OPTIONAL RITUALS:

Unity Candle/Lasso/Coins:

Unless a sung song is specifically desired (and conforms to the liturgical requirements), the music after the vows will be instrumental as the ritual is completed.

Flowers to Mary:

[-Ave Maria \(Schubert\)](#)

[-Ave Maria \(Bach/Gounod\)](#)

ORGAN EXAMPLES:

- [Canon in D \(Pachelbel\)](#)
- [Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring \(Bach\)](#)
- [Trumpet Voluntary/Prince of Denmark's March](#)
- [Trumpet Tune \(Stanley\)](#)
- [Wedding March from A Midsummer Night's Dream \(Mendelssohn\)](#)

- [Overture from Royal Fireworks Suite \(Handel\)](#)
- [Hornpipe from Water Music \(Handel\)](#)
- [Rondeau from Premier Suite \(Mouret\)](#)
- Ave Maria (Schubert) ([sung/instrumental](#))
- [Ave Maria \(Bach/Gounod\)](#)
- [Panis Angelicus \(Franck\)](#)

SFX WEDDING MUSIC WORKSHEET

PRIMARY INSTRUMENT: () piano () organ () piano & organ (please specify in list below)

(OPTIONAL) PRELUDE:

PROCESSIONAL / BRIDAL PROCESSIONAL (may be one or two pieces):

GLORY TO GOD () yes () no

MASS SETTING: () Traditional: *Mass of Creation* () Contemporary: *Mass of St. Ann*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM () Psalm 128 () other (see list above):

(OPTIONAL) SONG FOR UNITY CANDLE/LASSO/COINS/ETC AFTER VOWS:

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS [MASS ONLY]: () instrumental () sung

COMMUNION [MASS ONLY]: () instrumental () sung

(OPTIONAL) SONG FOR FLOWERS TO MARY: () instrumental () sung

RECESSIONAL:
