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## Elements Of Wedding Ceremony Music

By George Meszaros

When planning your wedding ceremony music, a common questions wedding planners receive is,

"How many songs to be performed during the ceremony and where should they go?" There are no hard set rules and there is no wrong way to do it. The following is a useful set of guidelines you can use while planning your wedding reception music.

Prelude - music performed prior to the beginning of the wedding ceremony, while arriving guests are being seated. For the prelude, you may select a pianist a guitar player or a string quartet. The music played in the prelude is more often than not instrumental.

Common classical songs include:

"Air on a G String" by Bach "Ave Verum Corpus" by Mozart "Water Music (Air)" by Handel "Serenade" by Schubert

Processional - music performed while the wedding party enters the wedding ceremony site. The processional is meant to announce your arrival. The guests will stand as you make your way toward the center point.

Common processional pieces are:

"Canon in D" by Pachelbel "Concerto in D Major" by Vivaldi "Trumpet Voluntary" by Clarke "Wedding March" by Mozart

Ceremony - music performed for the duration of the ceremony.

Songs frequently used are:

"Coronation March" by Walton "Ode to Joy" by Beethoven "Trumpet Tune in C" by Purcell "Triumphal March" by Grieg

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Recessional - music performed as the wedding party leaves the ceremony site. For many, this part of the ceremony is considered the most exciting. You're husband and wife. All your ceremony guest will stand as you make your way out of the gathering place.

There are many choices for this music and some songs include:

"Brandenberg Concerto No. 4" by Bach "Exsultate, Jubilate" by Mozart "Rigaudon" by Campra "The Four Seasons" by Vivaldi

Postlude - music performed as the guests exit the ceremony site, which is normally the same music played during the prelude.

Regardless of what music you choose, be sure they can be performed by a traditional musical instrument such as piano, organ, guitar, or flute or harp.

George Meszaros with

<http://www.sweet-reflections.com>

## **The Organization Of Your Wedding Ceremony**

### **By George Meszaros**

Typically, wedding ceremonies are structured events and are commonly broken down into several components. Remember, that this is your wedding and you have options on what happens during your wedding. Don't be intimidated by your friends, family, or even your wedding officiant. Unless you are asking for something outrageous, you should be able to have the ceremony conducted to your desires. Music is almost always part of the beginning of all wedding ceremonies, but music can be a part of any element.

Some of the most common elements of the wedding ceremony are:

Introduction - In this segment your wedding ceremony officiant declares the purpose of the gathering. He introduces the bride and groom, and welcomes the wedding guests. If it is a religious ceremony, he solicits everyone to participate in a prayer.

Lead up - This segment is probably the most forgettable part of the event, and it is often omitted. You may ask your officiant to follow the introduction with your vows to save time or if you are not interested in a drawn out sermon. If you elected to have a clergyman as your officiant, this part of your ceremony may be difficult to omit.

Vows - This is the "I do" part. Simply put, this is the one part of a wedding ceremony that you cannot compromise. It is always going to be part of the wedding, and it should be the most intimate part of your entire ceremony. At this time your officiant explains the significance of the couples vows followed

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by the bride and groom affirming their commitment to each other. Did you know that you could write your own vows? Writing your own vows gives you a chance to really personalize your ceremony. Be sure that both you and your groom are involved in the process. It should be a democratic process, to enhance the experience for both of you. Feel free to use your own words, so you feel comfortable with the language of your vows.

Exchange of the Rings - Once you declared your commitment to each other with your vows you are invited to place a wedding ring on each other's ring fingers. For many this is one of the most moving event of the ceremony.

Announcement - The closing segment of most wedding ceremonies is the announcement and the "kissing of the bride."

Keep in mind, this is your special day and you decide on how you want the wedding ceremony to progress. Remember, it is OK to be different. Your guest will appreciate an interesting wedding ceremony that is unpredictably exciting. To a large degree, ceremonies are for the entertainment of you and your guest, so have fun with it.

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