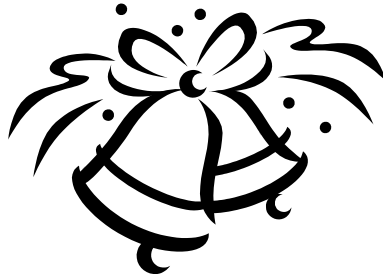


# St. Vincent Pallotti Parish - Wyandotte

## ♪ Wedding Music Information ♪



**W**edding music can be as varied as each couple is different. The Church prescribes that music during the liturgy not only be appropriate for the nuptial ceremony, but also uphold and enrich the holiness of the Eucharistic celebration. Usually the wedding ceremony is coupled with a Mass or Communion service, but at other times may take place separately, with only the appropriate readings and prayers for the nuptial service. In any case, brides and grooms should be aware that the music for their wedding is an important, integral part of the liturgy, and should serve to heighten and emphasize the serious commitment of two individuals becoming one. With rare exceptions, secular songs are not allowed in the ceremony. Consider playing a recording of a beloved secular song at your reception.

**T**herefore, **choose music that is appropriate for the ceremony.** There are many beautiful contemporary and traditional love songs, but not all of them are appropriate for a church wedding, or certain parts of the wedding. **Contact the parish music director;** it is her job to make sure the music for your wedding is complete and appropriate. Even if you plan to include other musicians or singers, she must be contacted first. Her job is to ensure that the music for your service is appropriate for the liturgy. If you do choose to have additional musicians, be sure they are experienced, sincere, and professional. Relatives and friends may have good intentions, but an inexperienced person, especially one who is not familiar with the liturgy, could make for an uncomfortable or inappropriate situation at the ceremony. **Be considerate of those you choose to provide your music.** Remember that their schedules are as hectic as yours. A minimum of three months should be given for them to prepare for your wedding appropriately. Expect to provide any new or different music they may not have, and allow time to learn new music. Not all musicians can play or sing all music. Try to choose music that is compatible with your musicians' styles and abilities. Professionals will charge for their services, but friends and relatives may be uncomfortable with a monetary gift, especially if they are also invited to the wedding; so don't be afraid to ask what is customary and appropriate in each circumstance.

### Processionals & Recessionals

Processional music is played as the bridal party enters the church at the beginning of the service, and recessional music is played as they exit at the end. These pieces can be grand and majestic, or light and airy. Another option is to have a gathering song or hymn (see Congregational songs, below). Some suggestions:

Air - Bach

Arioso - Bach

Bridal Chorus - Wagner

Canon in D - Pachelbel

Hornpipe (from Water Music) - Handel  
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring - Bach  
Ode to Joy - Beethoven  
Prelude in Classic Style - Young  
Trumpet Tune - Clarke  
Trumpet Voluntary - Clarke  
Wedding March - Mendelssohn  
2nd Movement from Sonata Op. 13 - Beethoven

## Vocal solos

These solos are appropriate for the seating of the most honored guests (grandparents and parents) that happens right before the processional, for the lighting of the Unity Candle (if you choose to observe this tradition), or for the signing of the license. A solo could even be sung at Offertory or Communion time, though it is more appropriate to include the congregation in a hymn during those parts of Mass. Some ideas:

All That I Am - Temple  
Beginning Today - Ducote/Balhoff  
Bridal Prayer - Copeland  
From the Day You Were Born - Nagy  
How Beautiful - Paris  
The Irish Wedding Song - Betteridge  
The Lord's Prayer - Malotte  
My Song Will Be For You Forever - Haas  
One Hand, One Heart - Bernstein/Sondheim  
Paris Angelicus - Franck  
The Prayer - Sager/Foster  
Sabbath Prayer - Harnick/Bock  
Wedding Song (There Is Love) - Stookey  
Wherever You Go - Haas

## Songs to Mary

A subset of vocal solos are the songs to Mary. Some bridal couples follow a tradition of bringing a bouquet of flowers to the altar of Mary. This tradition is completely optional, but if you choose to observe it, these are some appropriate songs to accompany that devotion:

Ave Maria - Bach/Gounod  
Ave Maria - Schubert  
Hail Mary: Gentle Woman - Landry  
On This Day, O Beautiful Mother - Lambillotte

## Psalm responses

After the first Scripture reading, there is a response usually taken from the Book of Psalms. It is usually sung, although some couples choose to have it read by a family member or friend. The sung response follows the wording of the Psalm very closely. Choose the responsorial as much for its content as for its melody. The congregation should be encouraged to participate in the refrain. Commonly used responses are:

Psalm 33: The earth is full of the goodness of God.

Psalm 34: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Psalm 103: The Lord is kind and merciful.

Psalm 112: A light rises in the darkness.

Psalm 121: Our help comes from the Lord.

Psalm 128: Blest are those that love you.

Psalm 145: I will praise your name.

## Congregational songs

These songs and hymns may be used at the Processional (if desired), and at Offertory and Communion time (if you are having a full wedding Mass). Although these are separate and distinct parts of the liturgy, many of these selections may be used at any of the three times. You may also choose to have one of these hymns or songs sung as a solo for the seating of the honored guests, at the lighting of the Unity Candle (if you are observing that tradition), or for the signing of the license.

Amazing Grace

Bridegroom and Bride/God, In the Planning

God Is Love

How Great Thou Art

I Have Loved You

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love Is the Sunlight

Ubi Caritas

We Have Been Told

We Praise You, O Lord

When Love Is Found

Of course, this is not an exhaustive list of appropriate music for a Catholic wedding. If there is a liturgical song or piece of classical music not on the list that you would like to include in your ceremony, do bring it up with the parish music director.

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