

WEDDING MUSIC PLANNING GUIDE

Revised March, 2013

Saint Francis by the Sea Catholic Church
45 Beach City Road
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina 29926
Director of Music Ministries: Jonathan C. Davis
E-Mail: icompose4u@gmail.com

It is a wonderful part of my ministry at Saint Francis Church to be able to work with brides and grooms to select music which will help make their wedding worshipful, reverent, uplifting and memorable.

Toward that end, there are some guidelines which the Church has instituted which are helpful in selecting the music that you will have.

Because you have chosen to have a sacramental marriage rather than a secular wedding ceremony, you are including Christ in you marriage.

Primarily, the essence of the guidelines is that the focus of the music is to draw attention to the three participants in the sacrament of marriage: Husband, Wife and Christ. Sung and played music selected needs to fall within this overall theme.

Also, in all liturgical celebrations, the role of the assembly is always emphasized. For this reason, the Responsorial Psalm (between the first and second readings), the Gospel Acclamation (between the second reading and the Gospel) and the parts of the Mass (when Eucharist is celebrated) are shared by all participants, not just the musician(s). This is why there is a Cantor at every wedding, regardless of any other singer that may be in attendance; it is the cantor's role to lead the assembly. Several of our cantors do have fine solo voices as well.

The music to be played on the organ or piano generally falls within the same guidelines and needs to complement the sacrament of marriage. For this reason, the church has asked that certain traditional pieces not be used as they make reference to secular occasions and are drawn from secular operatic works which are not in harmony with the church's guidelines.

If you have been listening to CD's or visiting online sites for your wedding music, you may have a wide variety of musical selections which you are considering. It is my responsibility to meet with you and find creative ways to incorporate as many of them as possible into your music planning.

The Planning Meeting:

As soon as you book your wedding with Saint Francis Church, please contact me to book my services for your wedding. Then, 2 to 3 months prior to the wedding date, once you have finished Marriage Prep and have selected your readings, be back in touch so that we can arrange a time to meet here at the church. At that time, we will talk through all of the aspects of your wedding ceremony and I can work with whatever selections you may wish, and perhaps play for you other pieces of music as well. When we are finished, we will have designed a music program for your wedding which will reflect you, your wishes, and which will help shape what will be one of the most important days in your lives.

In the meanwhile, attached to this document will be an 'Order of Worship' to be filled out at our meeting. This is something on which you can make notes, jot down ideas, and which we will fill in together when we meet. If you are planning to have a Wedding Program for your guests, you will have all of the correct information for it when we are finished with our meeting.

I look forward to meeting with you and hearing of your wedding plans. I am very pleased to be a small part of your special day and will work hard to make sure that your music will be an integral part of that day!

Saint Francis by the Sea Catholic Church

Jonathan C. Davis, Director of Music

Date:

Bride/Groom:
Time:
Celebrant:
Cantor:

Marriage outside of the Eucharist

Prelude Music _____

Music for the Seating of the Mothers (Grandmothers)

Wedding Processional _____

First Reading _____

Responsorial Psalm _____

Second Reading _____

Gospel Acclamation _____

Music After the Exchange of Rings _____

Wedding Recessional _____

Date:
Bride/Groom:
Time:
Celebrant:
Cantor:

Nuptial Mass

Prelude Music _____

Music for the Seating of the Mothers (Grandmothers)

Wedding Processional _____

First Reading _____

Responsorial Psalm _____

Second Reading _____

Gospel Acclamation _____

Music During the Preparation of Gifts _____

Mass Parts _____

Music During Communion _____

Wedding Recessional _____