

**A Guide to Music at Your Wedding**  
**St. John The Baptist Roman Catholic Church, Perth**

There are two types of wedding services: a **Liturgy of The Word** or a **Wedding Mass**. The difference is determined by whether or not a Eucharistic celebration occurs as part of the service.

**You are encouraged to use a Parish Organist and Cantor.** Use of musicians from outside of the parish is not encouraged, particularly those who are not experienced in the wedding liturgy. This ensures that our organ, piano and amplification systems are properly used, the church's liturgy and music requirements are maintained.

The chart lists possible musical moments and indicates whether they are **(R)**equired, **(P)**referred or **(O)**ptional. Each music selection must be made based on its contribution to the sacrament being celebrated.

When	?	What	Who
Before the service	P	The organist plays quiet music.	Organist
Immediately before the service	O	The cantor sings a solo selection. This usually happens while the mother-of-the-bride is being seated.	Cantor and Organist
Processional	R	The bridal party enters.	Organist
Gathering Hymn	O	Sung by congregation	Cantor, Organist & Congregation
Responsorial Psalm	R	Led by the cantor this music is based on a psalm or canticle. It is not a hymn or time for a special musical selection.	Cantor, Organist & Congregation
Gospel Acclamation	R	Led by the cantor.	Cantor, Organist & Congregation
After the Homily and before the Liturgy of the Sacrament (*)	O	A solo may be sung here. The music should be selected carefully for its religious text.	Cantor and Organist. (*) Must be coordinated with the presider in advance.
Eucharistic Music (**) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Kyrie &amp; Gloria (***)</li> <li>● Song at Preparation</li> <li>● Holy, Holy</li> <li>● Memorial Acclamation</li> <li>● Great Amen</li> <li>● Lamb Of God</li> <li>● Communion Hymn</li> </ul>	P	If a <b>Mass</b> is being celebrated this music is added. The priest may require additional responses or elect to simply say these texts. There are many options and variations that can happen.  The Communion Hymn should be singable by the congregation.	Cantor, Organist & Congregation  (**) Depending on the liturgical season, some parts of the Mass may not be included in the wedding liturgy.  (***) May not be required
At The Signing Of The Register	O	Since many will take pictures etc. at this time, it is often not the best place to insert a serious song.	Cantor and Organist
Recessional	R	The bridal party leaves.	Organist
Postlude	P	The guests depart.	Organist

**Fees for your Organist and Cantor**

The organist and cantor establish their fees based upon the needs of your celebration. Normally they will meet with you prior to the wedding. It is important for you to determine if the organist is to be present at the wedding rehearsal and to verify all times and expectations before the day of the wedding. If the musicians are expected to learn new music, attend other rehearsals or add additional solos then their fees normally increase. Fees are paid directly to the musicians prior to the celebration. They will explain their fees when contacted for your wedding.

**Additional Links, Information and Guidelines**

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops: [http://stjohnsperth.com/pdf/cccb\\_wedding\\_music.pdf](http://stjohnsperth.com/pdf/cccb_wedding_music.pdf)  
 Archdiocese of Kingston Guidelines: [http://stjohnsperth.com/pdf/guidelines\\_for\\_celebrating\\_marriage.pdf](http://stjohnsperth.com/pdf/guidelines_for_celebrating_marriage.pdf)  
 Archdiocese of Kingston Music Options: [http://stjohnsperth.com/pdf/music\\_options\\_for\\_weddings.pdf](http://stjohnsperth.com/pdf/music_options_for_weddings.pdf)