

Diocesan Repertoire for Weddings

As with all celebrations of Eucharist, the Guidelines of the Church¹ for Music in the Liturgy must be observed:

1. Musicians are not performers at liturgy but they are ministers who, with others, contribute to the prayerfulness of the celebration.

- the cantor or psalmist sings the psalm (from the ambo)
- the choir is part of the assembly
- the cantor or choir director is to lead and sustain the people in the
- singing, preferably from in front of the assembly
- the organ or other musical instrument sustains the singing of the choir and congregation or is used at other times for appropriate selections.

2.

The Musical Core	Music Enrichment	Further Musical Enrichment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening Hymn • Responsorial Psalm, • Gospel Acclamation, • Holy, Holy, Holy • Memorial Acclamation • Great Amen, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processional Song [Lord's Prayer] • Communion song • Signing of the Register 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing the Table • Response to the General Intercessions • Recessional Hymn

3. There are special rites proper to wedding liturgy that may require additional music:

- **Prelude**
- **Signing of the Register**
- **Recessional Hymn:** Since the wedding party are leaving the church
- something very familiar should be sung [helpful if responsorial in character], or an organ selection.

Making Musical Choices

Acclamations of the Eucharistic Prayer:

should be taken from those that are familiar to the congregation, as the one used at Sunday Mass.

Psalm:

Many of the Psalms used on Sundays are also appropriate; and especially Pss 128, 33, 34, 103, 145

Gospel Acclamation:

one that is regularly used in the parish.

Well-Known Melodies for Weddings

Opening Hymn:

From CBW III	From CBW II
As we Gather at Your Table* 583	All Creatures of our God 620
God is Alive 591	All People that on Earth Do Dwell 621
God Who blesses new Beginnings 626	God Created Earth and Heaven 625
O Bless the Lord 562	Strong is God's Love for Us 428/546
God, who gives to Life its Goodness 559	God, who gives to Life its Goodness 643
Gather Us In 587	May the Grace of Christ 596
God is Love! The heavens are 560	God is Love 573

Rite of Marriage: there is a place for short acclamations at these appropriate moments: At the beginning of the rite; After the exchange of vows and the presider's affirmation; after the nuptial blessing.

¹ Refer to "General Instruction of the Roman Missal" 1975 or 2002.

Also:

"Guidelines for Music in the Liturgy", leaflet published by the Archdiocese of Kingston, May 2005

"Guidelines for Celebrating Marriage: Choosing Music", leaflet published by the Archdiocese of Kingston, May 2005

Preparation of Gifts: instrumental music, or a piece sung by a choir is appropriate. If a song by the assembly is chosen, these are suggestions. They are also appropriate for the signing of the civil documents.

CBW III	CBW II
Where there is love 631	O Perfect Love 598
Blest are they 522	God of Love, O God of Goodness 597
Come Lord Jesus to this place 627	Tell out my soul 638
Blest Are Those Who Love You 628	
When Love is Found 629	

During the final procession to the back of the Church, an instrumental postlude is most appropriate. However, if a song for the assembly is chosen, it should be vigorous and joyful. Those suggested for the opening song are appropriate, or:

CBW III	CBW II
O Sing to God 544	Praise to the Lord 653/ 568
Sing to the Lord 569	Alleluia, Give Thanks 496
Sent Forth by God's Blessing 533	Bless the Lord 626
You are the Voice 576	Glorious God 628

Music Resources for Weddings — Resource Library

Wedding Music: Important that music used reflect our Catholic vision of the sacrament of marriage. Musician must guide choices for appropriate music. Suggestions given for music and publishers. Diocese of Scranton .(1995) 11.108

Handbook of Church Music for Weddings: Suggestions for planning as well as possible repertoire for the assembly, solo, choral music and instrumental music. Liturgy Training Publications. (1992) 16.002 A, B

Music for the Christian Celebration of Marriage: Selecting music taken from Catholic Book of Worship III. Specific selections and their locations are indicated. Diocese of Hamilton. 16.008

Music for Wedding Services: keyboard accompaniment book - contains instrumental selections, songs for solo singing, Responsorial Psalms, Hymns and Songs for Congregational Singing, as well as a bibliography. Also companion booklets for the couple and the congregation, as well as an audio tape. Published by Novalis. 17.000 A

Videos

The Celebration of Marriage: This video gives pointers to engaged couples on how to choose options provided in the Rite of Marriage. Diocese of Edmonton 11.716

Preparing the Wedding Ceremony: In the video a recently married couple in conversation with a friend discusses how to implement options by working with the parish clergy and music director. Liturgical Press. 11.723

Our Catholic Wedding: What can happen when a couple becomes actively involved in preparing the wedding liturgy and making it truly theirs and truly Catholic? The music and songs? Liturgy Training Publications 11.742

MUSIC OPTIONS FOR CELEBRATING MARRIAGE

**To accompany:
“Guidelines for
Celebrating Marriage:
Choosing Music”**

