

Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi

General Information for Music at Weddings

Updated
5/17/2017

Dear Couple,

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! It is my responsibility to guide you in the selection of music, to play organ for your wedding, and to arrange for cantors and any other musicians you desire. You will find these web pages most helpful. Do not hesitate to contact me with further questions or clarification. I look forward to working with you.

God bless you,
Thom DeLessio, Director of Music and Organist

Appropriate Music

The celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony is first and foremost a celebration of the worshipping community of the Church. As with any liturgical rite, only music which enhances the spirit of the liturgy and only texts which are liturgical/scriptural/spiritual are appropriate. Since contemporary popular music does not fit this criterion, such music is not permitted. This also excludes instrumental-only versions of pop songs.

Music Planning Process

The necessary documents are found at the cathedral parish website under Music Ministry: <http://www.stfranciscathedral.org/85>

- General Information (this document)
- Wedding Music Selections (A variety of audio files and the Place in the Liturgy where best to include them)
- Wedding Music Planner – Mass
- Wedding Music Planner – Ceremony Outside of Mass

Please complete the appropriate *Wedding Music Planner* and return to me no later than one month prior to your wedding, or two months prior if there are guest or contracted musicians involved.

Cantor / Leader of Song

Singing is integral to the Roman Catholic liturgy. A cantor is needed to lead the congregation in song. Normally, the wedding cantor is one of the resident cantors at the cathedral. Input from couples is welcomed and encouraged.

Guest Singers

Guest singers with verifiable credentials are welcome. Guest singers generally offer a sacred solo, while a parish cantor leads the liturgical music. If the guest singer is a current, experienced cantor in a Roman Catholic Church, he/she may be eligible to serve as both cantor and soloist. The name and contact information of the singer and the parish where he/she ministers must be supplied no later than two months prior to your wedding. The music he/she requests to sing must be approved also at this time. Couples will need to supply sheet music for any repertoire not in the cathedral music library.

Instrumentalists

Instrumental music can add great beauty to the wedding liturgy, and many couples choose to include a single instrument, or a small ensemble. The violinist, cellist and trumpeter on the parish audio files are top professionals with whom I work on a regular basis. I also work with other professional instrumentalists (flute, oboe, harp, brass ensemble, etc.). These musicians have rehearsed much wedding and liturgical music with me and should be considered first when contracting instrumentalists. There is no rehearsal fee for me when contracting them. There is a fee when contracting others. (see below) Guest instrumentalists need to supply their own music.

Photography from the Choir Loft

Photographers and Videographers are welcome to utilize the choir loft space, but not the space immediately around the organ console. Time-lapse photography using a camera with an audible click is not permitted.

Thomas DeLessio • Director of Music
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On all emails, please write WEDDING followed by your 'date' as the subject line

Example: WEDDING_05-17-2017

WEDDING MUSIC FEES

Required Fees for all Weddings

(1) Thomas DeLessio, Director of Music / Organist

\$275

-\$ 25 A deduction of \$25 may be taken if all fees are paid by one month preceding your wedding.

\$ 0 No rehearsal fee when using instrumentalists and cantors who regularly work with the Director of Music

\$ 50 Rehearsal fee with guest instrumentalists and/or singers on the day of the wedding. Rehearsal is ½ hour commencing one hour before the wedding

\$ 50 Optional fee – in the case of financial need, for a ceremony only (not mass), the organist can sing the psalm and alleluia, but no additional solo songs, in lieu of a cantor. The ministry of cantor is however, preferred in the liturgy. The \$50 option to the organist replaces the cantor fee.

_____ TOTAL Organist fee, calculated from above

(2) Cantor (Leader of Song)

\$150

Optional Fees

Instrumentalist

\$225 each

Cathedral Choirs:

\$300 donation Cathedral Choir

\$20 per singer Youth Choir (grades 8-12) approximately 10-15 singers

\$10 per singer Junior Choir (grades 3-7) approximately 20 singers

Financial Need

As stated above, the organist in lieu of a cantor, may sing the psalm and alleluia for a ceremony (not a Mass).

Payment Schedule

Prompt payment is necessary to satisfy commitments to all participating musicians.

Musician Fees and Forms

**due no later than one month prior to the wedding date
(two months when including guest or contracted musicians)**

The completed *Wedding Music Planner* is to be completed and emailed to
tdelessio@diometuchen.org

Separate checks to each musician are mailed in one envelope to:

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