



YOUR GUIDE TO

# Wedding Music



## Dr. Alan Sexton, Interim Organist

**Email**    [jsexton614@aol.com](mailto:jsexton614@aol.com)

**Address** 5300 Main Street  
Houston, TX 77004

# Your Guide to Wedding Music

Dear Bride and Groom,

Congratulations! In preparation for your special day, selecting music that will set the tone of the service and bring your guests into a true worship experience may seem like a daunting task. This guide to selecting your wedding music should make the process easy and offers you step-by-step assistance. Music policies differ from church to church. Therefore, your careful perusal of this booklet will be essential to streamlining your music planning time and understanding First Presbyterian Church's music policies.

## **Your job is to choose four to six specific pieces:**

- **one** for the seating of the house party—select only if special seating is included; (special guests/honorees)
- **one** for the seating of the families (two songs can be chosen if you wish to separate parents and grandparents)
- **one** for the entrance of the wedding party; (clergy, groomsmen, groom, bridesmaids, ring bearer, flower girl)
- **one** for the entrance of the bride; [one or two for the exit music. (recessional as couple/wedding party exit; postlude)]

## Here's What To Do

1. Listen to the approved songs via the Dropbox link provided by the Wedding Coordinator or at [fpchouston.org/weddings](http://fpchouston.org/weddings).
2. Use the track list on the following pages to make note of the music you would like to use for each category.
3. Finalize your music selections in one of the following methods:
  - Attend a Wedding Music Consultation with FPC's organist, Dr. Sexton. The consultations are offered one evening a month. For dates/times, contact Dr. Sexton. Bring this booklet with you to that appointment.
  - Or – Contact Dr. Sexton and request the Music Questionnaire for Brides. Complete the questionnaire and return.
4. Include your name and wedding date in all correspondence, including email, voice mail and postal mail. Dr. Sexton will be glad to answer questions via email [jsexton614@aol.com](mailto:jsexton614@aol.com).

## About The Song List

1. In the interest of time, many pieces “fade out” after 1-2 minutes.
2. All music was recorded on the First Presbyterian Sanctuary organ. While these songs should help you make selections, no recording can match hearing music live.
3. Chapel wedding couples: all of this music will sound very much the same on the Chapel organ.
4. Organ selections are included first, followed by possible solos.
5. If you have any requests that are not on the song list, Dr. Sexton will be pleased to discuss additional repertoire with you. (Note: Music requests that require significant rehearsal time will be subject to an additional fee.)

## Prelude Music

1. Depending on the size of your wedding, 15-20 minutes of prelude music will be played as guests are seated. Relax— these are selected by the organist.
2. Your program should simply indicate *Prelude* or *Organ Prelude* as these pieces will not be listed individually.
3. Your family and friends will enjoy beautiful music, generally light classics, that mirror the elegance and reverence of the place in which they sit.
4. Westminster Chimes may be played to designate the beginning of the processionals. If your program begins on the hour, the chiming may also be titled Chiming of the Hour and will conclude with the hour strike.

## Music & Your Printed Program

1. When printing music titles in your bulletin, use plain text, caps and italics as indicated in this booklet.
2. List a composer by full name or last name only; never use initials. Double composer names may be abbreviated as follows: Sager/Foster
3. Generally:
  - a. use italics for descriptive titles: i.e., *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*
  - b. use plain text for generic titles: Concerto, Sonata, Prelude
  - c. use plain text for Opus Numbers: Op. 15, No. 3
  - d. however, liberties may be taken to create uniformity within your program.
  - e. use space (rather than commas or dots) to separate title from composer.

# Vocal Solos

1. Vocal music is entirely optional. Many brides elect to hire a vocal soloist. (Note: Your wedding fee does not include a vocalist's fee, but you are welcome to hire a soloist.)
2. Although this section is written in terms of a singular soloist, more than one singer is welcome to sing at your wedding. These policies apply to all vocalists.
3. Wedding solos in a variety of styles have been included. You will find examples of classical music, contemporary sacred, folk and others included on the song list.
4. All solos on the song list are approved for FPC weddings. You are not limited to this list, however, *all solos must be sacred\* and approved by Dr. Sexton 30 days prior to the wedding.*

\* **Sacred means the piece must be suitable for worship and focus on God:**

- Wedding music may be tested by determining its suitability for any service of worship in the Reformed Presbyterian tradition
- Examples include: texts taken directly from the Bible; prayers set to music; texts that focus on God, God's love for the couple, God's blessing on the couple; hymns that are thematically appropriate; songs suitable for Sunday worship services.
- For approval, email printed text alone or printed text with music to Dr. Sexton 30 days prior to the wedding. CDs or other recordings will not be accepted for review.

**Important note: NOT ALL contemporary Christian songs are sacred, even if the album says "sacred wedding music."** Songs that focus on the couple's love for one another are appropriate for the reception, but not for the wedding ceremony—a worship service.

5. The songs on the song list were recorded by Houston-based professional soloists Melissa Givens, Leigh Shipman, Don Howie, James Winslow, and Organist, Dr. Rhonda Furr. Please keep in mind that your choice of soloist may affect your choice of repertoire. Dr. Sexton has contact information on each soloist recorded, and can make other recommendations if you need them.
6. Couples are welcome to ask friends or acquaintances to sing that have had formal music training and/or significant experience singing in public. If soloists are unaccustomed to singing publicly, if they are nervous or unprepared, or if they simply cannot sing (!), they may detract rather than complement your ceremony. When possible, select a sacred solo that your vocalist already knows and sings well.
7. In keeping with the high standards set by the ministries and worship committee of our church, only music that is within these guidelines will be permitted in the ceremony. Remember that these policies apply only to your service music.
8. Depending on the ceremony and room logistics, Dr. Sexton will be available to play either the organ or the piano for any vocal music. Unaccompanied singing is also an option.

## Placement of Solos

1. Generally, placement of solos is best decided between you and your pastor. With the exception of the Lord's Prayer, virtually any approved solo may be used in any of several positions in the liturgy:
  - a. after the seating of mothers;
  - b. during movement into the Chancel for vows;
  - c. before the scripture reading;
  - d. any other time upon which you and your FPC pastor agree.
2. The Lord's Prayer always occurs at a specific place in the liturgy, after the wedding prayer following the exchange of rings, at which point it is either said or sung, not both. No other song may be substituted.
3. Schubert's lovely *Ave Maria* is offered at FPC with a Protestant wedding text, *May They Be Forever Blessed*. The use of the original Latin Catholic text (*Hail Mary*) is discouraged, but may be considered if either of you, or one of your parents, worships in the Catholic tradition.



## Instructions For Your Soloist(s)

1. Email or mail a copy of the approved music, in the soloist's preferred key, to Dr. Sexton at least two weeks prior to the wedding.
2. Dr. Sexton will be available for rehearsal one hour prior to the wedding ceremony. This is a logistical rehearsal, and all solos must be performance ready.
3. Only live music is permitted for weddings in the Sanctuary or Chapel at FPC. (No pre-recorded accompaniment tracks are allowed.)

## Other Instrumentalists

1. Other instrumentalists are welcome to play for your wedding. Most music is easily adaptable for other instruments either in lieu of or in addition to the organ. While trumpet, string quartet and harp are the most common additions, other instruments suited to weddings in the Sanctuary and Chapel are welcome. While all of these can be a nice complement to the overall sound of the wedding, there is also added cost involved. The majority of couples at First Presbyterian Church choose to use only the organ.
2. In order to ensure a smooth and cohesive ceremony, Dr. Sexton will serve as coordinator for all music in your wedding. Requests for additional instrumentalists must be discussed with Dr. Sexton prior to engaging contract performers. If other musicians are to be included in your wedding, you are required to submit the instrumentalists' names and contact information no later than three weeks prior to the wedding. This will ensure that the music for your wedding flows seamlessly.
3. Instrumentalists are required to wear formal black. Women: floor length skirts/dresses/pants; no sleeveless tops. Men: tuxedo or black suits. (Bagpiper may wear traditional outfit.)

4. All instruments used must reflect the reserve and decorum associated with these worship spaces.
5. Remuneration for instrumentalists (other than the organist) is the responsibility of the bride. Securing a contract is highly recommended.
6. If you do not wish to use the organ, it is especially important to notify Dr. Sexton to this effect at least ninety days before the ceremony.
7. If Dr. Sexton is not available on your wedding date, an FPC certified organ associate will be assigned to ensure our standards of music are met. In this case, the bride will be notified in a timely manner. Whether Dr. Sexton plays for your wedding or not, he will remain your sole staff contact for all music matters and should be kept informed directly of all changes.
8. If you have questions or need referrals for instrumentalists, Dr. Sexton will be glad to help.



THE  
**Wedding Music**  
SONG LIST

Track / Title\*                      Composer                      Suitable for:

1. <i>Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring</i>	Johann Sebastian Bach	Mothers
2. <i>Ave Verum</i>	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	House Party Mothers
3. <i>Pifa from Messiah</i>	George Frideric Handel	House Party Mothers
4. <i>Air from Suite in D</i>	Johann Sebastian Bach	House Party
5. <i>Sleepers, Wake! A Voice is Calling</i>	Johann Sebastian Bach	House Party Mothers
6. <i>Canon</i>	Johann Pachelbel	Mothers Bridesmaids
7. <i>Sheep May Safely Graze</i>	Johann Sebastian Bach	House Party Mothers Bridesmaids
8. <i>Rhosymedre</i>	Ralph Vaughan Williams	House Party Mothers Bridesmaids
9. <i>Air from Water Music</i>	George Frideric Handel	House Party Mothers Bridesmaids
10. <i>Processional</i>	Arnold Sherman	Bridesmaids, Bride
11. <i>Trumpet Voluntary</i>	Jeremiah Clarke	Bridesmaids, Bride
12. <i>Trumpet Tune</i>	Henry Purcell	Bridesmaids, Bride, Exit
13. <i>Rigaudon</i>	Andre Campra	Bridesmaids, Bride, Exit

Track / Title	Composer	Suitable for:
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14. <i>Trumpet Tune</i>	David Johnson	Bridesmaids, Bride, Exit
15. <i>Psalm XIX</i>	Benedetto Marcello	Bridesmaids, Bride
16. <i>Trumpet Tune</i>	Bert Landman	Mothers, Bridesmaids
17. <i>Bridal Chorus</i> from <i>Lohengrin</i>	Richard Wagner	Bride
18. <i>Hornpipe</i> from <i>Water Music</i>	George Frideric Handel	Exit
19. <i>Hymn to Joy</i> from Symphony No. 9	Ludwig van Beethoven	Exit
20. <i>The Rejoicing</i>	George Frideric Handel	Exit
21. <i>Rondeau</i> from <i>Sinfonies de Fanfare</i>	Joseph Mouret	Bridesmaids, Bride, Exit
22. <i>Prelude to a Te Deum</i>	Marc Antoine Charpenier	Exit
23. <i>Now Thank We</i> <i>All Our God</i>	Sigfried Karg-Elert	Exit
24. <i>Toccata</i> from Symphony No. 5	Charles Marie Widor	Exit
25. <i>Wedding March</i> from <i>A Midsummer</i> <i>Night's Dream</i>	Felix Mendelssohn	Exit

\* These titles are printed with correct formatting. Please refer to these pages when adding song titles to your printed program.

Track / Title	Composer	Vocal Soloist
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26. <i>A Wedding Blessing</i>	Walter Pelz	Melissa Givens
27. <i>Alleluia from Exultate, Jubilate</i>	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Leigh Shipman
28. <i>Be Thou with Them</i>	Johann Sebastian Bach	Melissa Givens
29. <i>Bridal Prayer</i>	Roger Copeland	Leigh Shipman
30. <i>Eternal Life</i>	Olive Duncan	Don Howie
31. <i>May They Be Forever Blessed</i>	Franz Schubert	Melissa Givens
32. <i>Gift of Love</i>	Hal Hopson	Don Howie
33. <i>Household of Faith</i>	John Rosasco	Leigh Shipman
34. <i>How Beautiful</i>	Twila Paris	Leigh Shipman
35. <i>In This Very Room</i>	Ron and Carol Harris	Melissa Givens
36. <i>Make Us One, Father</i>	Paul Johnson	Melissa Givens
37. <i>Panis Angelicus</i>	César Franck	Melissa Givens
38. <i>On Eagle's Wings</i>	Micheal Joncas	James Winslow
39. <i>Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this Place</i>	Lanny Wolfe	Don Howie
40. <i>The Lord's Prayer</i>	Albert Hay Malotte	Melissa Givens
41. <i>The Prayer</i>	Carole Sager and David Foster	Leigh Shipman
42. <i>Seekers of Your Heart</i>	Melodie and Dick Tunney	James Winslow

Track / Title	Composer	Vocal Soloist
43. <i>This is the Day</i>	Scott Brown	James Winslow
44. <i>This Love, O Christ</i>	Joyce Schubkegel	Melissa Givens
45. <i>Unity Candle Song</i>	Raymond Haan	Leigh Shipman
46. <i>Wedding Hymn</i> from <i>Ptolemy</i>	George Frideric Handel	Leigh Shipman
47. <i>Wedding Prayer</i>	Fern Dunlap	Don Howie
48. <i>Wedding Prayer</i>	Mary Hopkins	James Winslow
49. <i>Wedding Song</i>	Flor Peeters	Melissa Givens
50. <i>Westminster Chimes</i>		

Recording by Jim Grubbs

2402 Trail River Dr. , Kingwood, TX 77345 | 281.360.1607 | jimgrubbs@cs.com

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