



Larry W. Hoey

Dear Engaged Couple,

Congratulations and best wishes on your upcoming wedding!

As Organist and Music Director of the Catholic Community of the Epiphany, it is my privilege to help you plan out your wedding music program. Music plays a vitally important role in our church's liturgical rites and adds immeasurably to the beauty and emotion of your celebration. It is important that we choose appropriate music so that your friends and families can participate in your celebration.

When we meet, I will:

- Offer musical suggestions and help you plan out your music program
- Explain where music is used during the liturgy
- Help you select your vocalist/cantor/instrumentalists
- Coordinate a meeting with your cantor

Please contact me at your earliest convenience so we can begin this process.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

Larry W. Hoey

Director of Music

Catholic Community of the Epiphany

570-888-0631

larryhoey.music@gmail.com

Wedding Music Policy and Guidelines

Catholic Community of the Epiphany – Sayre, PA.

Liturgy and Music Director

Our parish Director of Music, Larry Hoey, is entrusted with the responsibility of determining the suitability of musical selections within the context of the Roman Catholic wedding liturgy, and must approve all music and musicians chosen for your ceremony. Please familiarize yourself with the following guidelines.

The Role of Music in the Sacrament of Matrimony

The Marriage Rite is a blessed Sacrament of the Catholic Church marked by the solemn exchange of vows between the bride and groom. It is an act of worship through which the community offers their thanks and praise for God's blessings on the couple's lives together as husband and wife.

Because of the solemnity of your wedding liturgy, all music must be thoughtfully chosen to reflect the true Christian meaning of this Sacramental Rite. As such, the use of any secular music selections is not permitted. Wedding music in the Catholic church is chosen from the rich vast treasury of sacred repertoire modeled to bring glory to God and edify the faithful.

Sequential steps in planning your Wedding Music

- 1). Once the engaged couple has meet with the Celebrant and Wedding Coordinators, they must contact Larry Hoey, our Director of Music at their earliest convenience to plan music for your wedding ceremony. The Director of Music will assist you in selecting your cantor (vocal soloist) from our approved list of trained cantors. Together, they will guide you in selecting appropriate musical selections for your wedding ceremony.
- 2). Should you desire additional musicians such as string, oboe or trumpet players, bagpipes, brass quintet, harpist or even a choir, our Director of Music is responsible for the selection and hiring of all musicians and is happy to help you. Please **do not** engage the services of any soloists/cantors or any musicians. Know that early bookings are often necessary to ensure musicians availability on your wedding date.
- 3). Stipends for the services of your cantor and organist are to be paid on the evening of your wedding rehearsal. Please prepare separate stipend envelopes addressed to the organist and cantor and give those to your wedding coordinators on the evening of your rehearsal.

Avoid Inappropriate Music Selections

In the Catholic tradition, wedding music needs to reflect the joyous dignity of the sacred moment and space. There is a wide variety of appropriate processional, recessional and sung selections for you to choose from. All of these musical options will be discussed in detail and demonstrated at your meeting with our Director of Music.

To assist you and our Director of Music, the Music Committee of the Scranton Diocesan Liturgical Commission uses guidelines approved by our Bishop and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. These guidelines represent the pooled wisdom of church musicians and pastoral leaders. We invite you to trust our experience as it is outlined here. Our only concern is that your Catholic wedding be the best experience of liturgy that it can be.

Secular musical pieces are inappropriate for use at wedding liturgies. Among these are the so-called “traditional wedding marches” by Wagner, Mendelssohn and Rodgers and Hammerstein. Pieces written for secular theatrical productions were intended as such, and are by no means sacred or religious pieces.

The familiar “Bridal Chorus” from Wagner’s opera, “Lohengrin” accompanies the couple to the bedroom instead of the altar. Mendelssohn’s incidental ballet music to Shakespeare’s “Midsummer Night’s Dream” was written for a farcical comedy wedding brimming with a pagan god and goddess. The wedding march from “The Sound of Music” is quickly overshadowed by the chorus refrain of nuns singing “how do you solve a problem like Maria” making it unsuitable as a processional or recessional in the Catholic tradition.

Secular contemporary songs like “Hallelujah” by Leonard Cohen, is loosely based on Old Testament King David and contains lyrical sexual innuendos that are not appropriate for use at Catholic weddings.

All music selections written by Catholic composer “David Haas” are banned from Catholic Weddings, Masses and Funerals.

Rest assured our Director of Music is honored to be a part of your wedding liturgy and will assist you in choosing beautiful uplifting music for your wedding ceremony.

SAMPLE WORKSHEET FOR PLANNING PURPOSES

Wedding Ceremony of: _____

Wedding Date: _____ Time: _____

Catholic Community of the Epiphany OLPH (Ridgebury)

Cantor: _____ Musicians: _____

Rehearsal Date: _____

BRIDAL PARTY ENTRANCE (Bridesmaids)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring – J.S. Bach
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aria in F Major (from the Twelfth Concerto Grosso) – G.F. Handel
<input type="checkbox"/>	Largo in G (Xerxes) – G.F. Handel
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aria: Bist du bei mir" – J.S. Bach
<input type="checkbox"/>	Canon in D – J. Pachelbel
<input type="checkbox"/>	

Number of Bridesmaids: _____

Ring bearer and Flower girl: _____

Maid of Honor: _____

NOTES: _____

BRIDAL PROCESSIONAL (Bride)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Trumpet Voluntary – H. Purcell
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rondeau – J.J. Mouret
<input type="checkbox"/>	Trumpet Tune – H. Purcell
<input type="checkbox"/>	Trumpet Voluntary – J. Stanley
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bishop's Promenade – N. Coke-Jephcott
<input type="checkbox"/>	Festive Trumpet Tune – D. German
<input type="checkbox"/>	Trumpet Voluntary I – W. Rowan
<input type="checkbox"/>	"By My Side" – Thomas Porter (Vocal Solo)
<input type="checkbox"/>	

WEDDING PARTY RECESSIONAL

<input type="checkbox"/>	Rigaudon – A. Campra
<input type="checkbox"/>	Te Deum – M.A. Charpentier
<input type="checkbox"/>	Psalm 19 – (The Heavens Declare) – B. Marcello
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marche Triomphale - (Now Thank We All Our God) – S. Karg-Elert
<input type="checkbox"/>	Praise the Lord with the Drums and Cymbals – S. Karg-Elert
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tuba Tune in D Major – C.S. Lang
<input type="checkbox"/>	Allegro Maestoso (Opus 65 – Sonate II) – Mendelssohn-Bartholdy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Allegro Maestoso (Water Music) – G.F. Handel
<input type="checkbox"/>	Toccatà (Symphony V) – C.M. Widor
<input type="checkbox"/>	

Order of Service for a Catholic Wedding Mass

The Entrance and Introductory Rites

1. Processional: Entrance of the clergy and bridal party
Please note: Because the wedding marches by Wagner, Mendelssohn, Rodgers and Hammerstein are theatrically secular in nature; they are not permitted.
2. Gloria (Glory to God in the Highest...) (optionally sung)
3. Gathering Song (optional)
4. Opening Prayer

The Liturgy of the Word

5. First Reading
6. Responsorial Psalm (sung by the Cantor)
7. Second Reading
8. Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia)
9. Gospel
10. Homily
11. Celebration of Matrimony
12. Address and Statement of Intentions
13. Exchange of Consent (marriage vows)
14. Blessing and Giving of Rings
15. Sung Canticle of Praise – “May the grace of Christ our Savior”
16. Profession of Faith
17. The Universal Prayer

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

18. Presentation and Preparation of Gifts (Offertory Song)
19. Eucharistic Prayer
20. Sanctus (Holy, Holy)
21. Memorial Acclamation
22. Great Amen

The Communion Rite

23. The Lord’s Prayer
Sometimes couples ask to have the Lord's Prayer (Our Father) sung. Keep in mind that your wedding guests will likely come from several different churches and faiths. Since this is the one common prayer among all Christian denominations, it is very important that everyone be able to join in praying it together. For these reasons, the Lord's Prayer is spoken rather than sung at all Catholic Community of the Epiphany wedding ceremonies.
24. Nuptial Blessing
25. Sign of Peace
26. Lamb of God
27. Communion
28. Optional Reflection Song and floral tribute Honoring the Blessed Mother – “Ave Maria”

The Concluding Rites

29. Blessing
30. Recessional

Recessional: clergy and bridal party recess down the aisle to a lively and upbeat tune, a joyful ending to a thoughtful and serious ceremony.

Order of Service for a Catholic Wedding WITHOUT Mass

The Entrance and Introductory Rites

1. Processional: Entrance of the clergy and bridal party
Please note: Because the wedding marches by Wagner, Mendelssohn, Rodgers and Hammerstein are theatrically secular in nature; they are not permitted.
2. Greeting
3. Opening Prayer

The Liturgy of the Word

4. First Reading
5. Responsorial Psalm (sung by the Cantor (or) recited by Lector)
6. Second Reading
7. Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia)
8. Gospel
9. Homily
10. Celebration of Matrimony
11. Address and Statement of Intentions
12. Exchange of Consent (marriage vows)
13. Blessing and Giving of Rings
14. Sung Canticle of Praise – “May the grace of Christ our Savior”
15. The Universal Prayer
16. Optional Reflection Song and floral tribute Honoring the Blessed Mother – “Ave Maria”
17. Nuptial Blessing
18. The Lord’s Prayer

Sometimes couples ask to have the Lord's Prayer (Our Father) sung. Keep in mind that your wedding guests will likely come from several different churches and faiths. Since this is the one common prayer among all Christian denominations, it is very important that everyone be able to join in praying it together. For these reasons, the Lord's Prayer is spoken rather than sung at all Catholic Community of the Epiphany wedding ceremonies.

The Concluding Rites

19. Blessing
20. Reflection Song (*optional floral tribute Honoring the Blessed Mother*).
21. Recessional

Recessional: clergy and bridal party recess down the aisle to a lively and upbeat tune, a joyful ending to a thoughtful and serious ceremony.

NOTES: _____

