



THE CHURCH OF
ST JOHN THE DIVINE
CHANGING LIVES FOR GOD IN CHRIST

WEDDING MUSIC INFORMATION

Steve Newberry, *Director of Music Ministries*
John Meier, *Assistant Director of Music Ministries and Wedding Carillonneur*
Andrea Meier, *Administrative Assistant*

The music ministry team is eager to provide music which will be unique and exactly right for your wedding. We look forward to planning this special event with you.

How to begin. After you have a confirmed date and time from the Special Events Coordinator, contact the music office to schedule your consultation. To assist you in providing the appropriate amount of music, we need to know the number of people in the wedding party as well as the number of mothers and grandmothers, and anyone else who will be ushered in at the time of the “seating of the family.” You do not need to know your musical selections at this time.

How much music? You can have a beautiful service using either simple or elaborate wedding music. We are happy to assist you in planning the wedding of your dreams. We work with numerous musicians in the Houston community, but require that all musicians be contracted through the music office. Musicians shall not be contracted prior to consulting with the Director of Music, and all vocalists and instrumentalists must be approved by the Director of Music prior to their engagement. Only professional soloists and instrumentalists are engaged for ceremonies to ensure the highest standards of worship. The music office schedules all rehearsals with guest musicians.

What are my choices? The first choice is to determine if you want organ only, or if you want a vocalist(s) or instrumentalist(s) or some or all of these.

With a vocalist, do you prefer male or female? high or low voice?

Do you have specific requests for orchestral instruments?

We often use harp, flute, strings, trumpet(s), timpani (drums)

Other combinations are possible, i.e. flute with strings

We can schedule brass ensembles (usually 5, 8 or more players)

Choral music is an option, either with an ensemble drawn from the St. John the Divine Chorale, or with one of the three local professional children’s choirs

Another consideration is to have the ringing of the tower bells of the carillon (pronounced CAROL+LAWN). Our carillonneur plays the tower bells 20 min before and after weddings. You can hear the bells every Sunday before the 8:45 and 11:05 am services.

Are there restrictions? Prohibitions include most Broadway show music, popular tunes, and songs which are focused more on “me and us.” A good guideline is “Would this be appropriate for a Sunday morning service, and is the text from scripture?”

Can I hear some suggestions? We recommend listening to the “Music for a Joyous and Classical Wedding” CD in the bookstore. This CD has 24 of the most often requested music titles for processions in and out. When listening, listen to it until you find four or five favorite tunes. When you have some ideas of what you like and dislike, then we can assist you in either placing them appropriately in your service or suggesting other possibilities.

You are certainly not limited to these suggestions. They are offered as an easy way to begin your search for the perfect music for your ceremony. Another source is to type “WEDDING MUSIC MP3” in Google search. You will get lots of responses that you can listen to via computer. Other CDs are available at retail outlets such as Barnes and Noble, Borders, etc. Be aware that some of these may require the use of instrumental combinations (i.e. chamber orchestras) which may or may not be in your budget.

Changes to your plans. If any details change (like the time of the wedding or rehearsal), please do not forget to inform the Music Office in addition to the Special Events Coordinator and Clergy.

Printed Programs. The Music Office coordinates the printing of wedding programs. Please email all pertinent information to music@sjd.org as soon as it is available. Please include all names in the wedding party as you want them listed, your chosen readings, and anything else that you would like to be printed in the program. Once we typeset your service, a PDF file will be emailed for you to review.

You also have the option to use a separate typesetter/printer. Please remember that the music staff must review a final proof prior to publication to ensure that your printed materials reflect the SJD print policies and that the liturgical portion of the leaflet is correct.

We are here to help and advise you in making this a most wonderful and inspirational ceremony.

Music Office Direct Line 713.354.2242
snewberry@sjd.org - Steve Newberry
jmeier@sjd.org - John Meier
music@sjd.org - Steve Newberry, John Meier, Andrea Meier