



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

WEDDING MUSIC INFORMATION

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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? Do you have specific requests for orchestral instruments? Options include but are not limited to string quartet, trumpets and timpani (drums), brass ensembles (4-5 players), a full string ensemble, and instruments such as flute, harp, etc.

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.

The Carillon. Another consideration is to have the ringing of the tower bells of the carillon. Our carillonneur plays the tower bells 30 minutes prior and 20 minutes after the ceremony which provides music as your guests arrive and depart. 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 which can be found in the SJD Bookstore. This CD has 24 of the most often requested music titles for processions in and out. Note that even though most of the selections are recorded with organ and trumpet, most can work with other instrumentation as well.

When listening, listen until you find four or five favorite tunes, while also making note of those you dislike. Please do not try to place them in the service at this point. This information will simply help us determine appropriate music when you meet with the Director of Music. You are not limited to the selections on the CD. Often they will lead to other possibilities when you meet with the Director of Music to place the music in the service.

Other CDs are available at local bookstores as well as through iTunes or on the internet. Please be aware that the quality of music varies greatly, especially that found on YouTube.

Printed Programs. The Music Office coordinates the printing of wedding programs. After meeting with the Director of Music, 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.

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