

Sample Program for Catholic and Christian Weddings

There are so many details involved in planning your wedding. The wedding program is one of those details. Many brides ask about the proper way to list music selections.

Below is a sample program with helpful tips. Hope it helps☺

Prelude

This is the music played as guests are arriving. It is not necessary to list any or all of the selections. You could simply write:

Prelude The Rose Trio

If you have special requests for prelude music, you may list them. The composer's name or the title may be listed first.

*Prelude Webber "All I Ask"
 Bach "Arioso"*

*Prelude "All I Ask" Webber
 "Arioso" Bach*

Processionals

These are the selections played for the entrance of the grandparents, mothers and bridal party. (Tip: if the procession aisle is short, it is wise to have only 1 or 2 selections. You may even consider having one selection for the entire party and yourself.) This provides a seamless, uninterrupted flow of music. For longer aisles, you may choose a piece for grandparents and mothers, one for bridal party, and one for yourself.

*Mothers Entrance
Bridal Party
Bridal Entrance*

*Clarke "Trumpet Voluntary"
Pachelbel "Canon"
Delibes "Flower Duet"*

Responsorial Psalm

During Catholic masses and in Christian denominations, this is performed after the first reading. These are most often hymns sung by the cantor. Your church will provide you with a list of their approved hymns. We can accompany the singer or play an instrumental arrangement without singer. In some cases, the church may allow you to choose an appropriate instrumental selection. See our music suggestions page for ideas.

Responsorial Psalm "I Have Loved You"

Celtic Alleluia

In Catholic masses, this is performed after the second reading and before the Gospel reading. It may be performed with singer and strings or strings alone.

"Celtic Alleluia"

Unity Candle/Reflection after the Vows

Many denominations allow the lighting of the unity candle. Typically, the lighting is brief; therefore a shorter selection is recommended. If there is no unity candle, you may want to place a musical selection after your vows as a moment of reflection.

*Unity Candle
Reflection*

*"One Hand, One Heart" Bernstein
"Air" Gluck*

Offertory

During Catholic masses, this is a hymn or instrumental selection played as the gifts are brought to the Altar.

*Offertory
Offertory*

*"Air" Handel
"The Lord is Kind and Merciful"*

Mass of Creation

In Catholic masses, this is the liturgical part of the mass. It includes the “Holy, Holy”, “Great Amen” and “Memorial Amen” and “Lamb of God”, which follows the sign of peace. These may all be spoken, performed with singer and accompaniment or instrumental without singer. These may be listed in your program as follows

Holy, Holy
Memorial Acclamation
Great Amen
or
Mass of Creation

Sign of Peace

Many denominations include the sign of peace in their services. An instrumental selection is recommended. It adds to the moment without an overpowering sound.

Sign of Peace *Beethoven* *“Ode to Joy”*

Mass of Creation (continued)

The liturgical portion continues with “Lamb of God.” You may list it as follows:

Lamb of God
Or
Mass of Creation

Communion

In many Christian denominations, Communion is observed. A hymn or extended instrumental piece is recommended. For Catholic services, you may want to select two pieces if you have many guests receiving Communion.

Franck *“Panis Angelicus”*
Traditional Hymn *“Irish Wedding Song”*

Meditation/Flowers to the Blessed Mother

In Catholic services, the couple may choose to place flowers before the statue of The Blessed Mother. The Schubert "Ave Maria" is almost always played at this point. It may be performed with singer and accompaniment or with strings alone. In other ceremonies, an instrumental piece may be played here as a meditation.

Schubert "Ave Maria"
"You Raise Me Up" Josh Groban

Recessional

This is the selection performed as the bridal party exits the church. Upbeat pieces are highly recommended. You may choose to have two selections.

Handel "Hornpipe"
Mendelssohn "Wedding March"

Postlude

These are the pieces the trio performs as guests are exiting the church. We play upbeat selections that reflect the joyous completion of the wedding ceremony. It is not necessary to list the selections. As with prelude, it is fine to write the following:

Postlude The Rose Trio