

Places for music, in the marriage ceremony

*** music should be used wherever is marked with ***

++ and is optional, where marked with ++

[Suggestions for suitable music is given below this grid]

Parts of the Mass	What happens.....	Music:
*Entrance:	*Bridal Entrance	Organ Anthem
++ Lighting of the Single Candles	<i>[Can be done before or after the Greeting]</i> The Bride and Groom each light a candle, to symbolise their intent to marry. There are two ways that this is handled: (1) Immediately the bride arrives at the altar: entrance music continues until the candles are lit and the Bride & Groom have returned to their seats; or (2) After the celebrant greets the congregation: In this case, it can be accompanied by something short and simple.	[just continue the Entrance music] or [very short piece]
The Greeting	Celebrant greets the congregation	
Penitential Rite	++Kyrie/Lord have Mercy	Can be sung
Liturgy of the Word	First Reading (reader required) *Responsorial Psalm Second Reading (reader required) *Gospel Acclamation Gospel (read by the Celebrant)	Should be sung Alleluia & Verse:
Homily	Celebrant	
Marriage Rite	Declaration of Consent Exchange of Vows Blessing of the Rings	
Lighting of the Unity Candle	Bride & Groom jointly light the centre (Unity) candle	[very short instrumental piece]
Prayer of the Newly Married Couple	Bride & Groom kneel and say a prayer together	
Prayers of the Faithful	Reader(s) prays for your intentions	
*Offertory	The gifts are brought to the altar Be aware that the length of time taken to bring up the gifts is short, so pick something of an appropriate length – a long solo here can cause an uncomfortable delay.	Usually one verse of a suitable hymn is enough, either sung or instrumental
Liturgy of the Eucharist	The preface is a long prayer of which parts can be sung: ++Holy, Holy; ++Memorial Acclamation; ++Great Amen; ++The Lord's Prayer; ++Lamb of God:	preferably in well-known melodies that the congregation may join in The Lord's prayer may be sung in English or Irish.

*Sign of Peace	A sign of peace is exchanged here. The Bride & Groom usually go into the congregation to exchange the Sign of Peace with their family & friends – and this can take a while!	The best option is a piece that has a Peace theme and has short verses, so that the singer or instrumentalists can keep going or stop as is needed.
*Communion	The Eucharist is shared. The best place in the mass for longer hymns, preferably with a Eucharistic theme . You may need two hymns here, depending on the number receiving the Eucharist. Or you might have a hymn, followed by an instrumental:	1 or 2 suitable hymns or instrumentals [as needed]
Final Blessing	Celebrant gives a final blessing before concluding the mass.	
*Signing of the Civil Register	The signing of the civil register by the Bride & Groom & Witnesses. Lots of photographs also! There can be a lot of time to be filled in here, and it can become a noisy time if no music is played. Suitable music here helps to prevent the congregation from bursting into conversation as well as maintaining a dignified and respectful atmosphere in the church.	2/3 pieces chosen here so that the musicians don't run out if the signing of the register takes longer than expected!
*Recessional:	Bride & Groom process down the aisle followed by the bridal party & guests	Organ Anthem/ Hymn

The music chosen should be liturgical and not secular pop songs. The music should not be a performance in itself separate from the ceremony – rather it should enhance the liturgy at the given time. The list below is not exhaustive and serves as suggestions as to what type of music is appropriate to each part of the mass.

Suggestions for suitable music.....

Entrance	Organ Anthems: Suitable Hymns:	Trumpet Voluntary (Clarke) Canon in D (Pachelbel) Bridal Chorus (Wagner) You Are Mine (D. Haas)
Lighting of the Candles:		Christ Be Our Light (Farrell) Bind Us Together Lord (Gillman) God id Love (F. King)
Responsorial Psalm:	Psalms were written to be sung! There is a wealth of Psalms to choose from:	[Ps.17] Mo Grá Thú a Thiarna (Lawton) [Ps.22]The Lord is my Shepherd (Egan) [Ps.22]'Sé an Tiarna M'Aoire (O'Cearbhaill) [Ps.32] May Your Love Be Upon (Daly) [Ps.91] On Eagle's Wings (Joncas) [Ps.95] Sing a Song to the Lord's Holy Name (Lawton) [Ps.115] How Can I Repay the Lord (Lawton) [1Cor:12] Set Your Hearts on the Higher Gifts (Warner)
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia! Alleluia! <i>[Glory Praise & Honour to You – during Lent]</i>	Pilgrim Song Alleluia (Lawton) Seinn Alleluia (Anon) Alleluia (Lourdes mass)
Offertory		Ag Críost an Síol (O' Riada) The Love I Have for You Today (C. Landry) Ave Maria (Schubert) Wherever You Go (Haas) As I kneel before you – Ave Maria (Parkinson) In Bread We Bring You Lord (Nichols)
Sign of Peace		Make me a channel of Your Peace (Temple) Peace, Perfect Peace (Mayhew) Peace I leave with you (Madden) Shalom My Friends (Traditional Hebrew) Dona Nobis Pacem (Traditional)
Communion		Panis Angelicus (Frank) I Will Be The Vine (Lawton) The Cloud's Veil (Lawton) We Come to Your Feast (Joncas)

Signing of the Register		The Irish Wedding Blessing (Traditional) Hiding Place (Lawton)
Recessional	Organ Anthems: Suitable Hymns:	Midsummer-Night's Dream (Mendelsohn) Ode to Joy (Beethoven) Thine Be The Glory (Handel) May the Road Rise to Meet You (L. True) Companions on the Journey (C. Landry)

Practicalities:

- ξ Choose your readings: First Reading, Second Reading and Gospel. This will help you to focus on themes for your music choices.
- ξ Check your music choices with your celebrant and/ or parish music minister and remember that the music at weddings must be "suited to the dignity of the occasion."
- ξ We recommend that your musicians/ singer(s) should be located at the top of the right hand side aisle [under the bell tower] where the organ and microphone points are located.
- ξ Once you've selected and agreed what is to be sung, you might provide some of the lyrics within your wedding booklet, so that the congregation may join in if they so wish.
- ξ If the Responsorial Psalm is being sung, be sure that your first Reader knows this, and does not jump ahead into reading the Psalm, before your singer is ready to start!