

## MUSIC FOR THE CELEBRATION AND BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE



The Celebration of a Marriage is a joyous occasion in the life of the couple and in the life of the church. The Catholic Church draws upon its rich artistic heritage, making use of music both recent and ancient, in order to express the solemnity and elation of this joining together.

What follows is a description of when and where music is used in the Marriage Service and a sampling of popular selections for each of the corresponding segments of the liturgy.

### **Pre-Service Music (Prelude)**

It is common to have 25-30 minutes of music before the start of the service. This is usually played at the organ; however, other instrumental music (e.g. string quartet, solo violin, flute, etc.) can be used in place of or along with the organ. As this music is essentially a small recital, it can comprise several different pieces to reflect the different emotional facets of the occasion. The final 2-3 pieces of this pre-service music will be used to seat the mothers, followed by the wedding party. Whether you choose to use one piece for both, or a separate piece for each seating is left to your discretion. The final piece of the pre-service music is that for the procession of the bride. While the piece(s) for the seating of the mothers and the party is usually of a solemn nature, the bride's music can be either boisterous or meditative.

### **Music during the Service (Offertory, Communion)**

At the presentation of the gifts, a hymn or solo piece may be sung. It is common to select a hymn (or other piece of music) whose text centers upon the theme of love, marriage, constancy, etc. These same guidelines apply to music at Communion, with the additional option of selecting a Eucharistically themed hymn or solo.

### **Procession out (Postlude)**

The procession of the bride, groom, and wedding party out of the church is most often accompanied by the organ. At this point, the mood reflected is one of joy and celebration. A great body of repertoire exists to service this need.

### Guidelines for Selecting Music

There is an enormous body of music available to you to help you celebrate this special moment in your lives. You need not feel limited by the offerings below. If you would like to request something outside of these usual selections, please feel free to make an appointment with the Director of Music.

Please know that some requests cannot be honored. While there is no ban music from the popular vein, much of it is unsuitable for the solemnity of the occasion either by reason of text, tone, or association. A good rule of thumb would be to imagine whether your selection would sound out of place at a Mass on Sunday.



### Outside Musicians

If you would like to bring your own musician to perform at your wedding, we will be happy to accommodate you! St. Mary's loft has hosted many gifted friends and relatives, each contributing that personal touch that helps to make the day that much more memorable.

All outside musicians must arrange to meet and rehearse with the Director of Music prior to the date of your wedding. All repertoire must be submitted for approval by the Director of Music no later than **one month** prior to the date of your wedding.

Guest Singers may wish to sing either a part of or the entirety of the service. If your guest singer would like to sing only one or two selections, our cantor will perform the rest of the service. If, however, you would like your guest singer to perform the entire service, we ask that you give us at least **six weeks** notice.

Other outside musicians (singers, trumpeters, string quartets, etc...) can be contracted for you through the Director of Music. Please contact the church at least **two months** prior to make these arrangements.

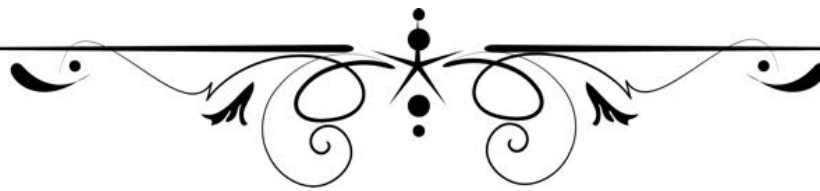
### Our Musicians



**Frank R. Zilinyi**, organist, is an active church musician and concert artist, described as “deeply musical” and a “very convincing interpreter.” Mr. Zilinyi has performed as a soloist and accompanist throughout the United States, offering programs that are diverse and engaging. Mr. Zilinyi has served churches in New York City, Ohio, North Carolina, Nashville, TN and Connecticut. He is currently the Organist and Director of Music at St. Mary's Church, in Milford, CT.



**Marylyn Mulvey**, A native of Connecticut, was first place winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Finals. Her appearances with Victor Borge on stage and television have made her internationally known. She has appeared with most of the major symphony orchestras in the United States, Canada, and Europe; including the London Philharmonic, Royal Copenhagen, Winnipeg, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Cleveland Symphonies.



## MUSIC WORKSHEET

Using the following worksheet as a guide, please make as many of your musical selections as possible. For your listening reference, please feel free to consult youtube, spotify, etc.

In this first section, we need to collect some biographical info, as well as some specifics about your wedding party. In the rows marked mother, bridesmaids, flower girls, and ring bearer please simply indicate the number of each that will be participating in the wedding *and* processing down the aisle.

### Basic Information

Bride and Groom	
Date and Time	
Mothers	
Bridesmaids	
Flower Girls	
Ring Bearers	
Guest Musicians?	Yes No

**Wedding Party Procession**

This is the music that will accompany the seating of the mothers, the procession of the bridesmaids, and the flower girls and ring bearer(s). You may wish to choose a different piece for each or you might rather have the whole party process under one piece of music. For our purposes, the flower girls and ring bearers typically process to whatever music is selected for the bridesmaids.

M	B	Both	Andante Cantabile in B-flat	Ludwig Van Beethoven
M	B	Both	Air in D, from Suite No. 3	Johann Sebastian Bach
M	B	Both	Aria, from Conc. Gr. No. 12	Georg Friedrich Händel
M	B	Both	Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring	J.S. Bach
M	B	Both	Sarabande, from <i>Holberg Suite</i>	Edvard Grieg

**Bride's Procession**

This music will accompany the bride's procession down the aisle. You will notice that Pachelbel's *Canon* is listed below. Due to the length of this piece, it is recommended that if you would like to have it played, you should use it to cover the procession of the bride, as well as bridesmaids. An abridgment can be made, if you would prefer to have it as only the bride's procession.

	Prelude, from the <i>Te Deum</i>	Marc-Antoine Charpentier
	Bridal March, from <i>The Birds</i>	C. Hubert H. Parry
	Trumpet Tune	Henry Purcell
	Prince of Denmark's March	Jeremiah Clarke
	Canon in D	Johann Pachelbel

**Service Music**

Here, you will select the music that will serve the different parts of the liturgy. Please make one selection from each category.

Psalm	Psalm 128: Blessed are they	Marty Haugen
	Psalm 118: This is the Day	Anon.
Alleluia	Gregorian Alleluia	Anon.
	Celtic Alleluia	Fintan O'Carroll

**Unity Candle**

If you have chosen to light the unity candle after the profession of vows, you may choose between Raymond Haan's *Unity Candle Song*, or an instrumental interlude. Please indicate your choice below, if applicable.

		Unity Candle Song		Instrumental Interlude
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**Offertory/Communion**

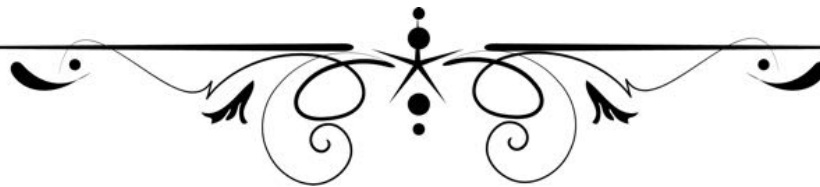
These are two opportunities within the liturgy where either a piece of solo vocal music or a hymn can be sung. Please select either a hymn or a vocal solo for both the offertory and the communion. There is no requirement as to the combination. You may have two solos and no hymns, vice versa, or a combination of both.

Solo	O	C	Ave Maria	Franz Schubert
	O	C	Ave Maria	César Franck
	O	C	The Gift of Love	Hal Hopson
	O		A Gaelic Blessing	John Rutter
	O	C	Wedding Song	Noel Paul Stookey
		C	Panis Angelicus	César Franck
	O	C	Where there is love	David Haas
	O		Bridal Prayer	Roger Copeland
	O		Love Divine, All Love's Excelling	HYFRYDOL
	O		Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee	HYMN TO JOY
Hymn	O		For the Beauty of the Earth	
	O		God is Love	ABBOT'S LEIGH
		C	Gift of Finest Wheat	
		C	Let us Break Bread Together	Trad.
		C	See Us, Lord, About your Altar	DRAKES BROUGHTON
		C	Panis Angelicus	SACRIS SOLEMNIS
		C	Soul of my Savior	ANIMA CHRISTI

**Exiting Procession**

Please choose a piece to accompany your procession out of the church.

	La Rejouissance, from <i>Fireworks Music</i>	G.F. Händel
	Hornpipe, from <i>Water Music</i>	G.F. Händel
	Now thank we all our God	J.S. Bach
	Now thank we all our God	Sigfried Karg-Elert
	Wedding March	Felix Mendelssohn



If you have been able to complete this form on your own, please save it and email it back to the Director of Music. Alternately, you may print this form, complete it, and mail it to:

Attn: Director of Music  
St. Mary Church  
70 Gulf Street  
Milford, CT 06825

If you were unable to complete this worksheet, please call the church or email the Director of music to set up a time to meet. The church office can be reached at: (203) 877-8741.

We are thrilled to be a part of your day and we hope this has been an enjoyable part of your planning. Congratulations!

