

## **WEDDING MUSIC POLICY for ST. MATTHEW CHURCH**

After your initial meeting with the clergy and when your wedding date and time have been confirmed, please contact Dawn Shininger, Director of Music and Organist, at [dawn@stmatthew.net](mailto:dawn@stmatthew.net) or 614-471-0212, ext. 1117. At this time a meeting will be scheduled to hear samples of wedding music and finalize selections. A list of music selections may be e-mailed before the actual meeting, if requested. Usually, selections are finalized in one meeting.

Weddings at St. Matthew typically utilize parish musicians and cantors. A guest organist or soloist is possible, if that person is approved by the Director of Music. There are additional fees for the Director of Music when guest organists, cantors or soloists are used.

Because a church wedding is a sacred rite, all music during the liturgy must be sacred in nature, appropriate to the sacrament that is to take place. Popular, secular music or music from the theater is not permitted during the Sacred Liturgy. Because they are theater pieces, the so-called "traditional wedding marches" by Mendelssohn and Wagner (i.e. "Lohengrin" or, as most know it, "Here Comes the Bride") are not allowed. Pre-recorded music or music from a CD is never permitted at St. Matthew Church.

During the Liturgy of the Word, the Responsorial Psalm and the Gospel Acclamation will be sung by a trained cantor. Throughout the liturgy, the cantor supports the singing and may also sing alone during the prelude.

All wedding music must be approved by the Director of Music. The Director of Music will assist you in every way toward fulfilling these expectations as you select the music for your wedding.

The organist and cantor receive payment for their services. The Director of Music will communicate these fees during the music planning process. For the sake of convenience, the Wedding Coordinator will collect all fees for liturgical ministers, i.e. clergy, altar server, organist, cantor, coordinator, etc., in advance of the wedding.

Photographers and videographers may be in the choir loft during the ceremony, as long as they are respectful of the musicians and their space and do not use flash photography. Please refer to Photographer/Videographer Policy for more details.

**Listed below are those times in a wedding liturgy accompanied by music:**

PRELUDE

Prior to the wedding liturgy there is a musical prelude consisting of all instrumental music or a combination of instrumental and vocal music. Music during this time encompasses a combination of pieces that reflect the festive nature of the occasion as well as God's steadfast love.

PROCESSIONAL

The Processional is usually played by the organ alone. Two musical selections are chosen: one for the bridesmaids and the other for the bride.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The Responsorial Psalm is sung by the Cantor and Assembly. As this must be a psalm chosen from the wedding liturgy, consult your wedding liturgy planning resource for your selection.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Before the Gospel reading, an Alleluia is sung (except during Lent) by the Cantor and Assembly.

EUCCHARISTIC ACCLAMATIONS (Mass only)

The Eucharistic Acclamations, e.g. Holy Holy/Memorial Acclamation/Great Amen, are sung by Cantor and Assembly.

LAMB OF GOD (Mass only)

The Lamb of God is sung like the rest of the mass acclamations.

COMMUNION HYMN (Mass only)

The Communion Hymn is sung by Cantor and Assembly

VISITATION TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (*optional*)

This selection is usually the "Ave Maria" by Schubert. It may be sung by the cantor or played as an organ solo.

RECESSIONAL

The Recessional is usually played by the organ alone, portraying a festive and joyous musical expression as the bridal party exits the Church.

**Please sign and return a copy to the St. Matthew Church Office.**

This document may be filled in online (except signatures) and saved to your desktop.

Dawn Shining, Director of Music  
St. Matthew the Apostle Church  
807 Havens Corners Road  
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

I have read and agree to abide by the Wedding Music Policy of St. Matthew Church for our wedding scheduled on \_\_\_\_\_(date) at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_(groom)

\_\_\_\_\_ (bride)

Print Names: \_\_\_\_\_(groom)

\_\_\_\_\_ (bride)

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

After reading the Music Policy above and signing this form, please contact Dawn Shining, Director of Music and Organist at [dawn@stmatthew.net](mailto:dawn@stmatthew.net) or 614-471-0212, ext. 1117, to schedule a meeting to hear wedding music samples and finalize selections. This completed form may be brought to the meeting or sent via postal mail to the above mailing address prior to the meeting.