



While music serves as a ceremony cue, no other single element in a wedding celebration has the power to engage the emotion the way music does. The ambiance that music provides creates an atmosphere that enhances the wedding and puts the guests in a festive mood for celebration.

Nowadays, with the available resources on hand, the bride and groom can always find numerous ways to orchestrate and personalize their wedding music. Some professionals are more eager and enthusiastic than musicians when it comes to talking what they love. What if one would walk down the church aisle or during a wedding recessional without music by a trumpet player, a choir or a string ensemble? The following facts and information/tips may help you plan your celebration and inspire you to consider the elegant simplicity and drama of your wedding with the kind of music that is personal and intimate for the couple.

### Music Concerns of Couples

- What is the budget for a string group; duo, trio, quartet, quintet, double quartet or chamber group?
- How about having a solo voice (male or female) or a choir in the church ceremony?
- What are appropriate songs for the church?
- Can we have music on both church and reception?
- How about having music in the church only or in the reception area?
- Can a relative or friend sing during the church ceremony or reception? Is there a need for a rehearsal?
- Are there rehearsal fees?
- What are the terms for payment? Is there a contract?
- How about the rates for overtime playing?

### Wedding Elements to Determine the Type of Music

#### Style and Mood for your Wedding

- 1. SIMPLE WEDDINGS**  
For 100-200 invited guests, small music groups as trio, quartet, or quintet would be preferable. A double quartet may suit the needs of the couple for a more dramatic and joyful effect
- 2. ELABORATE AND SUMPTUOUS WEDDINGS**  
Larger group of instrumentalists with singers or choir depict an imposing and grandiose effect on the celebration.

#### Environment/Circle of Friends

It is important for the couple to know the music preferences of the guests. Some may prefer classical music, Broadway songs, pop or contemporary or mixed combination. (A list of music is available upon request)

### What the Couples Like

This is a sensitive and important element. Always bear in mind that the music couples choose add a deep personal touch, which sets the emotional atmosphere of the wedding. A theme song or memorable music on the couple's first date gives a reminiscing amity on the relationship.

### Factors on Wedding Music that Would Reflect your Personal Preference

#### Choosing the Songs for your Ceremony

It is important to consult the clergy/church regarding possible music restrictions as to the type of music to be sung or played. Some sections in the celebration prohibit singing and playing music other than liturgical ones. For Catholic and Christian weddings, the ceremonies are usually grouped into sections:

- 1. PRELUDE**  
Music for this section may be provided to set the religious mood of the celebration, the purpose of which is to honor and praise God. Example: Jesus Joy of Man's Desiring.
- 2. PROCESSIONAL**  
Couples may prefer 1 or 2 different moods of music, one for the entourage and the other for the bride. This section produces a distinctive and special effect especially for the bride. Example: Canon in D, Rondeau the Masterpiece.
- 3. OFFERTORY**  
A female or male vocalist can possibly sing in this part to depict a quiet and contemplative effect. Example: Song of Ruth, Take and Receive.
- 4. COMMUNION**  
Songs for this section may be a solo voice, duet or choir or instrumental music. Example: Lead Me Lord, Anima Christi.
- 5. RECESSIONAL**  
Music should be impressive and recurrent musical setting. Example: Hornpipe by Handel, Ode to Joy by Beethoven.

### Choosing the Songs for Your Reception

This portion or mood in the choice of repertoire is a full-fledged celebration after the nuptial vows. Couples may choose music according to the circle of friends they have and according to the likes or favorites of the couple. Music for the entrance of the married couple to the reception hall, including cake cutting, dove and wine ceremony may be provided by the instrumentalists.

### Choosing the Kind of Musicians

Bernie Pasamba Music Consultancy offers instrumentalists who are specialists in their own line. With their qualifications as mentioned in the background topic, the staff can be grouped into combinations like:

1. DUET : Flute and Guitar | Violin and Piano
2. TRIO : Flute, Violin, and Piano | Violin, Cello, and Piano | Two Violins, Piano
3. QUARTET: Two Violins, Flute, and Piano | Two Violins, Cello, and Piano | Flute, Violin, Cello, and Piano
4. QUINTET : Two Violins, Flute, Cello, and Piano
5. DOUBLE QUARTET OR CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
6. FULL ORCHESTRA

A large group consisting of 30-50 members which include strings, woodwind, brass and percussion instruments suitable for big wedding celebrations.

### Acoustics - Its Importance in Music

Musical acoustics, which deals with the production of musical sound, has character that affects the performance of musicians. Music should have optimum reverberation to be able to recognize the various instruments and pleasing quality of resonance and richness of tone. It requires that the listener receive a strong direct sound that does not merely appear as an echo. Unfortunately, most of the reception halls with high ceilings do not produce good acoustics. To amplify the sound, microphones are used and the musicians are placed on higher ground.

### Learning New or Unfamiliar Songs

In some instances, couples request the music group to perform new songs and unfamiliar music that are not available in the market. Some may have the audio file but no printed music may be available. In cases like this, the music group should welcome playing and learning new songs and music as a way of updating the repertoire and for future use in upcoming events.

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