

wedding music planning guide

your early wedding gift from:



Dear Bride & Groom,

You're Engaged! Congratulations!

It's been 20 years since I tied the knot, but I still remember the anticipation and planning phase that you're in today.

I wish I'd had a friend to walk me through each step so I didn't have to work it out all by myself.

Today, if you'll let me, I'll be that friend for you & together we will explore the MUSIC aspect of your planning.

See you inside!

xo, Jaime



Your Soundtrack....

Your first stop on a hunt for wedding ceremony (or reception) music should be your own playlists! The soundtrack for your love story is probably in the palm of your hand, my dear!

What's the song you were listening to when you first kissed?

Or the one you played on repeat the month you fell in love?

Those are more authentic starting points than any Google search ever could be.

Don't use the songs all the other brides are using.

Honor each other with YOUR songs!



be yourself

Are you a 24/7 Country radio crooner? Then steer clear of formal/classical music. Pick songs that mean something to YOU!



Did you meet your fiancé in orchestra class in high school? Awww! Honor your roots and incorporate one of the songs you used to play together.

Having a church wedding & don't know if you're allowed to use a love song that's meaningful to you? Your musician should be able to modify almost any song to be church-appropriate and create points of music that highlight both your faith AND your love story.

Talk about an authentic wedding!

Stuck? Don't stress

Google can be helpful at this point! And so can I! I've been performing at wedding ceremonies for 25+ years and I don't think there's a song I haven't performed, so if you need ideas, don't hesitate to call or email me--even if you haven't hired me to bring music into your wedding day. I'm here to help!

Or if you'd like to invite me to help you full-time, just send me song requests & I'll email you personalized mp3 samples within 1-2 business days.

or schedule an in-person meeting and we can create your wedding day "playlist" together until you feel 100% thrilled with your choices & know for certain you've chosen the songs you simply can't live without!





points of music in your wedding ceremony

by Jaime Pyper Eschliman
wedding ceremony piano/vocals



prelude music

30 minutes before your wedding ceremony begins, we recommend starting "prelude music" which is usually elegant piano music that fits the tone you'd like to set in your wedding.



honored guest processional

Your ceremony will officially begin when the ushers (or groom) escort your most honored guests to their seats. These are usually your parents and grandparents. Often the officiant will enter the ceremony at this point as well. Traditional song choices are classical or hymns, but your musician should be able to modernize these for you. Modern choices include Lorie Line's "Threads of Love" or Carrie Underwood's "Mama's Song." One of my brides hummed a lullaby her grandma used to sing to her & I turned it into a piano solo. (Grandma noticed!)



bridal party processional

Bridesmaids, flower girls, ring bearers (and even pets!) will walk down the aisle to this song.

Modern brides have been known to honor their BFF's with a sentimental (or spunky!) song. Other brides pick a favorite love song (with or without vocals).

By far, the most popular bridal party processional is a lovely instrumental song called "Canon in D." Look it up at our youtube channel [here](#).

Another very popular piece is "Feather Theme" from the Forrest Gump movie. Sounds like a crazy choice, but just [listen to it](#) and you'll know why 30% of my brides place that song in this spot.

bridal processional

This is your moment! You obviously don't have to select the old stand-by, "Here Comes the Bride," but if you want it, we have a wildly popular make-over of it [here](#).



Whichever song you select for your once-in-a-lifetime trip down the aisle, it's one of the most memorable moments of your day. So choose a song that represents you & your new husband authentically.

Even if you're getting married in a church, you're not limited to traditional choices (though songs like Canon in D are gorgeous options) Just remember that your ceremony musician should be able to transform any song you love into an elegant & appropriate piano processional. I've had requests for everything from Beethoven to the Beatles...Classical to Country...Disney, Broadway, even Maroon 5!

Fun idea: Consider adding vocals to this processional. Talk about a tear-jerker. Send me a message & let me know what songs you're considering! I'd love to hear about it & can send you a sample mp3 so you can "try it on," kind of like a wedding dress!

mid-ceremony song



After your vows, chances are, you'll find yourselves lighting a unity candle, pouring sand in a sand ceremony, or mixing salt in a salt ceremony. These rituals signify your lives being joined together as one.

Your wedding ceremony musician will usually perform a piano/vocal song here. Popular choices right now are Lady Gaga's "Shallow," Adele's "To Make You Feel My Love," and other songs: "When I Say I Do," "Marry Me," "Falling For You," "The Prayer," "When You Say Nothing at All," "1000 Years," and so many more.

I encourage my couples to choose "your" love song—even if you'll be dancing to it later in your reception. I always sing a shortened, modified version of "your" song here so you'll definitely have room to dance the night away in a few hours.

Choose a song that really reflects your love story. I can even compose a custom-written love song based on your actual relationship. Just ask!

Or if you hear a song on the radio/YouTube that speaks to you, just send it my way & I'll record an mp3 sample to help you decide.

recessional

"You may now kiss your BRIDE!" How long have you waited to hear those words? I recommend highlighting this never-to-be-forgotten moment with an upbeat, lively song...even if you've selected traditional music up to this point. It will play until your wedding party has exited your ceremony space.



Lady Gaga, Taylor Swift, Christina Perri, the Beatles, One Republic, Maroon 5 or anything else with a beat (piano and/or vocals) are really popular choices right now with my brides.

There are also the timeless classical pieces: "Wedding March," "Trumpet Voluntary," "Handel Hornpipe," or if you invite me to bring music into your wedding, we can even use my upbeat version of "Canon in D," called "Canon Chorus."

postlude

Similar to Prelude music, your postlude is usually elegant music that plays until all your guests have been dismissed. Some of my brides actually request a mini-concert of popular or religious music at this point, especially if you'll be coming back in to dismiss them in person (a popular choice that frees you up during your reception!)



Planning Your Catholic Wedding Music

by Jaime Pyper Eschliman
wedding ceremony piano/vocals



honor your faith & your love story with meaningful wedding music



There are several special requirements in a Catholic Wedding (scroll down for more) and your musician should be experienced in all aspects of this. If you invite me to celebrate your Catholic Wedding Mass with you, I become more than the pianist, soloist & cantor for you. I am also the pre-wedding music liaison with your church, saving you time, potential miscommunication with your priest over music issues, and giving you a guarantee of exquisite balance between your love story & your faith during your ceremony.

I have nearly a 100% success rate of getting modern songs approved by priests all over the Midwest because I respectfully transform your favorite songs into elegant piano processionals and/or modified vocal solos so you can still enjoy hearing "your song" during your ceremony.

I have a long list of delighted Catholic brides, mothers, & priests that can tell you how satisfied they were with the end result!

the liturgy of the word



With your priest, you will select 4 scripture passages that will be used in your ceremony. Passages from the Old & New Testaments will be read aloud by 2 readers of your choice. Your priest will read the chosen passage from the Gospel.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: a song your musician will select for you, based on the passage from the Psalms that you choose.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: a brief "Alleluia" song. (I am partial to the "Celtic Alleluia,"

eucharist mass

(Full mass weddings only). During your priest's prayers over the bread & wine, I'll sing & play the mass music. If you have a preferred mass, you can select that on your song selection form. Usually there are 3–5 points of music during this part of your ceremony.



communion songs

(Full Mass Weddings only)

Depending on how many of your guests will be receiving Communion, plan for about 2-3 vocal songs.

These are ALWAYS religious in nature, but you can choose your favorites if you have them. If your parents have favorites that are meaningful to them, this is a good place.



If you choose to work with me, I have an abundance of Communion appropriate songs that I can insert into the ceremony here. "The Prayer of Saint Frances (Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace," "The Lord's Prayer," "Eagle's Wings," & "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" are popular choices.

flowers for Mary

I usually sing an acapella chant version of "Ave Maria" here. Listen on Youtube [here](#).

sign of peace

"Love Never Fails," and "Love One Another," are beautiful and popular choices for this special moment where you hug & shake the hands of your guests closest to the altar.



After Your Ceremony

by Jaime Pyper Eschliman
wedding ceremony piano/vocals



cocktail hour

A popular addition to most wedding days, your cocktail/appetizers hour is a fun, relaxing 60–70 minutes for your guests to enjoy themselves while you take photos or relax with your wedding party. Hiring a musician to add some entertainment or background music is a wise choice to create the atmosphere you desire, whether fun/relaxed or elegant/upscale.



reception music

Your wedding dinner/reception is the best family and friend reunion you've ever hosted. Instead of a blaring DJ playlist, imagine dining & dancing to elegant, live music.



What's Next?

besides the honeymoon...

by Jaime Pyper Eschliman
wedding ceremony piano/vocals



step 1: check availability

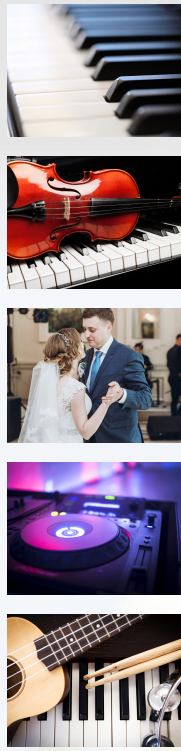
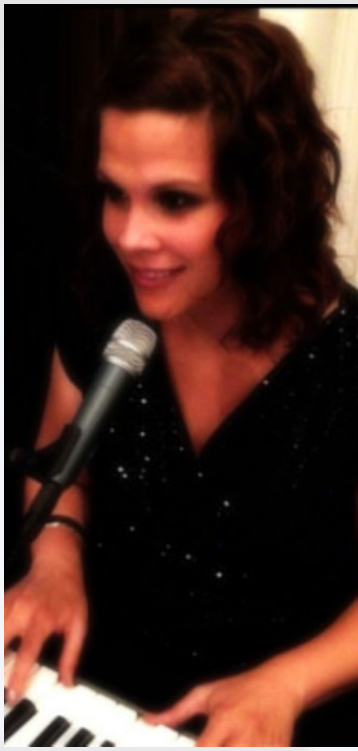
Submit an availability
request form online at
NebraskaWeddingMusic.com



step 2: let's meet!

Set up a virtual audition
(with up to two mp3 song
requests) or an in-person
audition and early planning
session.

step 3: sign your contract & pay deposit



step 4: select your music!

Use this guide (or let's do your planning together!) and our convenient online song selection form. (I'll send you the link once you've signed your contract.)

step 5: I'll work with your officiant

Leave the music liaison work to me! I'll work personally with your officiant to get your song selections approved for your ceremony!



step 6: the hard part

Now for the ONLY hard part: being patient until your wedding day!



I can't wait to hear all
about *your* wedding!

Let's chat today.

Jaime

