

WEDDING MUSIC IN THREE EASY STEPS!

The date is set, we've signed the contract and agreed on what to wear. The essential part is over; now the fun begins! *You get to choose your music!* There are so many choices out there, it may seem daunting. Fear not! It will all be okay!

#1. What style are you looking for? What mood?

Classical is a broad answer! Are you imagining monks in an old, stone cathedral or velvet-clad dancers in 19th-century Vienna? 20th century modern, Stravinsky-esque? Are you looking for elegant, joyful, silly, quiet, exuberant? Write down some adjectives! It will help you choose music.

#2. Do you have any special songs you'd like to have played?

We've played arrangements of Britney Spears and Metallica! (That sort of thing fits best in the Prélude or Recessional, but it depends on the mood of the place!) There's something really neat about a string quartet playing Beatles – it's not quite what you'd expect, but sounds really neat!

#3. No-Play List

Are there any songs you don't want to have played at your wedding? Songs that have the *wrong* kind of emotional significance, or that you just plain don't like? Let us know!

HOW DO SPECIAL REQUESTS WORK?

As gig musicians, we spend almost every weekend between April 30th and October 15th playing between 1 and 4 weddings. Special requests are part of what keeps this work interesting! I'm always happy to oblige.

First, call me and ask if I have it in my library already.

If I don't, the best is if you can get me **a copy of the sheet music** (www.hickeys.com is a great, local Ithaca music shop I frequent; they have online service and lovely telephone help. If you go in, ask for Bill Hurley and tell him I sent you.) If you can get me a copy, there's no problem.

If you can't find the sheet music, send me **a recording**. If I can find the sheet music, we're golden. If not, I'll do my very best to arrange it, at a fee of about \$100. (Usually, I can find some sort of sheet music, so there's no fee. I'll give you a heads-up before I start arranging so you can decide whether or not to proceed.)

If there are a large number of special requests, or special requests requiring singers (say Aunt Rachel is singing Uncle Tim's arrangement of "I Could Have Danced"), we'll negotiate the \$60/hr/player extra fee for rehearsals.

PRÉLUDES

We'll arrive early, and start playing as the first guests start sitting down. Are there certain songs, or a certain style music you'd like to have played before the service to set the scene? This is the place to put that special song you just can't find a spot for in the ceremony!

PROCESSIONAL

Stately, calm, sets the scene. Choose one based on how long the aisle is – Pachelbel is great if you have a really long aisle, Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring is nice if it's shorter – and if you want a bright, cheery tone or calm, elegant tone. It's possible to have two songs, one for the bridesmaids, mother of the bride, etc., and a special one for the bride – in that case, we'll need to discuss cues.

DURING THE CEREMONY

Different ceremonies have different musical needs. If you're having a religious ceremony, check with the clergyperson to see where it would be appropriate to have us play. We have played Mass movements and parts of Lutheran liturgy – this adds a special flavour to everyday elements of religious services and gives the day an extra festive feel! Will you be lighting a Unity Candle or will Aunt Rachel be singing a special song?

RECESSIONAL

This finishes the ceremony, and sends people on their way to the celebrating afterwards. Quick, gay, bright and fun.

I'm happy to give as little or as much input and guidance as you'd like in planning your service and reception music. Some couples ask me to plan the whole event; some enjoy the process of discovering and planning their own music together; many fall somewhere in between. I'm here, whatever your style!

Aara Edwards 592-9766
aara@post.harvard.edu