



MASTER OFFICIANT & PUBLISHED AUTHOR

THE WEDDING CEREMONY MUSIC GUIDE

A curated collection of timeless, romantic, modern and joyful songs for every moment of your ceremony.

FROM THE FIRST NOTE TO THE FIRST WALK AS NEWLYWEDS

Use this guide to discover songs for the prelude, family seating, wedding party processional, bride or couple entrance, special ceremony moments, unity rituals and recessional. Many vocal selections can also be beautifully arranged for piano, violin, guitar, harp or string quartet.

Mary Gehr
Master Officiant & Published Author

www.marygehr.com
info@marygehr.com

HOW TO BUILD YOUR CEREMONY MUSIC

A beautiful ceremony usually has more than one musical moment. The exact number depends on your ceremony format, venue, cultural traditions and how many people are walking in. Think of the guide below as a menu, not a rulebook.

#	MOMENT	WHEN IT PLAYS	IDEAL USE
1	Prelude	Guest arrival and seating	10 to 30 minutes of music
2	Family Seating	Parents, grandparents and special family members	1 to 3 selections
3	Wedding Party Processional	Wedding party, flower child and ring bearer	1 to 2 selections
4	Bride / Couple Entrance	Your most personal entrance song	1 featured selection
5	Interlude	Unity ritual, reading, prayer or reflection	Optional
6	Recessional	Your joyful walk out as newlyweds	1 celebratory selection

Quick tip: Choose the feeling first, then the song. Do you want your entrance to feel classic, intimate, romantic, dramatic, joyful, soulful or completely unexpected?

CLASSICAL & TIMELESS

Elegant choices that work beautifully for piano, organ, violin, harp and string ensembles.

Canon in D <i>Johann Pachelbel</i> □ <i>P / I</i>	Spring from The Four Seasons <i>Antonio Vivaldi</i> □ <i>P / R</i>
Air on the G String <i>J. S. Bach</i> □ <i>P / I</i>	The Swan <i>Camille Saint-Saëns</i> □ <i>P / I</i>
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring <i>J. S. Bach</i> □ <i>P / I</i>	Gymnopédie No. 1 <i>Erik Satie</i> □ <i>Pre / I</i>
Arioso <i>J. S. Bach</i> □ <i>I</i>	Clair de Lune <i>Claude Debussy</i> □ <i>P / I</i>
Sheep May Safely Graze <i>J. S. Bach</i> □ <i>Pre / I</i>	Arabesque No. 1 <i>Claude Debussy</i> □ <i>Pre / I</i>
Brandenburg Concerto No. 1 <i>J. S. Bach</i> □ <i>P / R</i>	Ave Maria <i>Franz Schubert</i> □ <i>P / I</i>
Trumpet Voluntary <i>Jeremiah Clarke</i> □ <i>P / R</i>	Ave Maria <i>J. S. Bach / Charles Gounod</i> □ <i>P / I</i>
Trumpet Tune <i>Henry Purcell</i> □ <i>P / R</i>	Meditation from Thaïs <i>Jules Massenet</i> □ <i>P / I</i>
Rondeau <i>Jean-Joseph Mouret</i> □ <i>R</i>	Salut d'Amour <i>Edward Elgar</i> □ <i>P / I</i>
Air from Water Music <i>G. F. Handel</i> □ <i>P / I</i>	Liebestraum No. 3 <i>Franz Liszt</i> □ <i>P / I</i>
Allegro Maestoso from Water Music <i>G. F. Handel</i> □ <i>P / R</i>	Eine Kleine Nachtmusik <i>W. A. Mozart</i> □ <i>R</i>
Hornpipe from Water Music <i>G. F. Handel</i> □ <i>R</i>	Wedding March <i>Felix Mendelssohn</i> □ <i>R</i>
Ode to Joy <i>L. van Beethoven</i> □ <i>R</i>	

ROMANTIC POP & CONTEMPORARY

Modern favorites with heartfelt lyrics that translate beautifully into instrumental arrangements.

A Thousand Years

Christina Perri □ *P / I*

Can't Help Falling in Love

Elvis Presley □ *P / I*

Perfect

Ed Sheeran □ *P / I*

All of Me

John Legend □ *P / I*

At Last

Etta James □ *P / I*

You Are the Best Thing

Ray LaMontagne □ *P / R*

I Choose You

Sara Bareilles □ *P / I*

Lover

Taylor Swift □ *P / I*

You Are in Love

Taylor Swift □ *P / I*

Adore You

Harry Styles □ *P / I*

Beyond

Leon Bridges □ *P / I*

Better Together

Jack Johnson □ *P / I*

Lucky

Jason Mraz & Colbie Caillat □ *P / I*

I'm Yours

Jason Mraz □ *P / R*

Make You Feel My Love

Adele □ *P / I*

The One

Kodak Black □ *I*

How Long Will I Love You

Ellie Goulding □ *P / I*

Your Song

Elton John □ *P / I*

The Luckiest

Ben Folds □ *P / I*

First Day of My Life

Bright Eyes □ *P / I*

Kiss Me

Sixpence None the Richer □ *P / I*

I Won't Give Up

Jason Mraz □ *P / I*

From the Ground Up

Dan + Shay □ *P / I*

10,000 Hours

Dan + Shay & Justin Bieber □ *P / I*

You and Me

Dave Matthews Band □ *P / I*

Everything

Michael Bublé □ *P / R*

Haven't Met You Yet

Michael Bublé □ *R*

Everything Has Changed

Taylor Swift & Ed Sheeran □ *P / I*

Speechless

Dan + Shay □ *P / I*

Die a Happy Man

Thomas Rhett □ *P / I*

R&B, SOUL & MOTOWN

Warm, soulful selections for couples who want romance with personality and groove.

Signed, Sealed, Delivered (I'm Yours)

Stevie Wonder □ *R*

Isn't She Lovely

Stevie Wonder □ *P / R*

For Once in My Life

Stevie Wonder □ *R*

My Cherie Amour

Stevie Wonder □ *P / I*

You Are the Sunshine of My Life

Stevie Wonder □ *P / I*

Let's Stay Together

Al Green □ *P / I*

At Last

Etta James □ *P / I*

Something

The Beatles □ *P / I*

All You Need Is Love

The Beatles □ *R*

Here, There and Everywhere

The Beatles □ *P / I*

This Will Be (An Everlasting Love)

Natalie Cole □ *R*

L-O-V-E

Nat King Cole □ *R*

The Way You Look Tonight

Frank Sinatra □ *P / I*

My Girl

The Temptations □ *R*

How Sweet It Is

James Taylor □ *R*

By Your Side

Sade □ *P / I*

Best Part

Daniel Caesar feat. H.E.R. □ *P / I*

Adore

Prince □ *P / I*

Let's Get Married

Jagged Edge □ *R*

All of Me

John Legend □ *P / I*

Beyond

Leon Bridges □ *P / I*

Sure Thing

Miguel □ *P / I*

You Are the Best Thing

Ray LaMontagne □ *R*

Lovely Day

Bill Withers □ *R*

Ain't No Mountain High Enough

Marvin Gaye & Tammi Terrell □ *R*

CLASSIC ROCK & ROCK LOVE SONGS

Timeless rock favorites that can be softened for the ceremony or energized for the exit.

Here Comes the Sun

The Beatles □ *P / I*

Something

The Beatles □ *P / I*

In My Life

The Beatles □ *P / I*

All You Need Is Love

The Beatles □ *R*

God Only Knows

The Beach Boys □ *P / I*

Wouldn't It Be Nice

The Beach Boys □ *R*

Crazy Little Thing Called Love

Queen □ *R*

You're My Best Friend

Queen □ *R*

Can't Get Enough of Your Love

Bad Company □ *R*

Wonderful Tonight

Eric Clapton □ *P / I*

Layla

Eric Clapton □ *I*

Your Song

Elton John □ *P / I*

Tiny Dancer

Elton John □ *P / I*

This Is the One

The Stone Roses □ *R*

Sweet Child o' Mine

Guns N' Roses □ *I*

Harvest Moon

Neil Young □ *P / I*

Into the Mystic

Van Morrison □ *P / I*

Tupelo Honey

Van Morrison □ *P / I*

Crazy Love

Van Morrison □ *P / I*

Wild Horses

The Rolling Stones □ *I*

You Make Loving Fun

Fleetwood Mac □ *R*

Everywhere

Fleetwood Mac □ *R*

More Than Words

Extreme □ *P / I*

Your Song

Billy Paul □ *P / I*

You Shook Me All Night Long

AC/DC □ *R / Fun*

COUNTRY

Heartfelt country love songs that tell a story and feel personal, warm and authentic.

From the Ground Up

Dan + Shay □ *P / I*

Speechless

Dan + Shay □ *P / I*

10,000 Hours

Dan + Shay & Justin Bieber □ *P / I*

Die a Happy Man

Thomas Rhett □ *P / I*

Yours

Russell Dickerson □ *P / I*

God Gave Me You

Blake Shelton □ *P / I*

I Don't Dance

Lee Brice □ *P / I*

Then

Brad Paisley □ *P / I*

She's Everything

Brad Paisley □ *P / I*

Amazed

Lonestar □ *P / I*

Bless the Broken Road

Rascal Flatts □ *P / I*

From This Moment On

Shania Twain □ *P / I*

You're Still the One

Shania Twain □ *P / I*

Making Memories of Us

Keith Urban □ *P / I*

Your Everything

Keith Urban □ *P / I*

Tennessee Whiskey

Chris Stapleton □ *I*

Joy of My Life

Chris Stapleton □ *P / I*

Forever and Ever, Amen

Randy Travis □ *R*

When You Say Nothing at All

Alison Krauss □ *P / I*

When I Said I Do

Clint Black & Lisa Hartman Black □ *P / I*

I Cross My Heart

George Strait □ *P / I*

From Here to Eternity

Michael Peterson □ *P / I*

Cowboy Take Me Away

The Chicks □ *R*

Me and You

Kenny Chesney □ *P / I*

I Hope You Dance

Lee Ann Womack □ *I*

JAZZ, STANDARDS & SWING

Sophisticated choices for elegant venues, cocktail-style ceremonies and timeless romance.

The Way You Look Tonight

Frank Sinatra □ *P / I*

Fly Me to the Moon

Frank Sinatra □ *R*

L-O-V-E

Nat King Cole □ *R*

Unforgettable

Nat King Cole □ *P / I*

What a Wonderful World

Louis Armstrong □ *P / I*

La Vie En Rose

Edith Piaf □ *P / I*

At Last

Etta James □ *P / I*

Cheek to Cheek

Ella Fitzgerald & Louis Armstrong □ *P / I*

Dream a Little Dream of Me

Ella Fitzgerald □ *P / I*

The Nearness of You

Norah Jones □ *P / I*

Come Away With Me

Norah Jones □ *P / I*

Don't Know Why

Norah Jones □ *P / I*

Moon River

Audrey Hepburn □ *P / I*

I've Got You Under My Skin

Frank Sinatra □ *R*

It Had to Be You

Harry Connick Jr. □ *R*

Our Love Is Here to Stay

Ella Fitzgerald □ *P / I*

Someone to Watch Over Me

Ella Fitzgerald □ *P / I*

Embraceable You

Ella Fitzgerald □ *P / I*

My Funny Valentine

Chet Baker □ *I*

The Look of Love

Dusty Springfield □ *P / I*

CHRISTIAN, SACRED & GOSPEL

Faith-centered and sacred selections for religious, spiritual or worshipful ceremonies.

The Prayer

Celine Dion & Andrea Bocelli □ *P / I*

How Great Thou Art

Traditional □ *P / I*

Amazing Grace

Traditional □ *P / R*

Ave Maria

Schubert □ *P / I*

Ave Maria

Bach / Gounod □ *P / I*

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J. S. Bach □ *P / I*

Air on the G String

J. S. Bach □ *P / I*

Panis Angelicus

César Franck □ *I*

The Lord's Prayer

Albert Hay Malotte □ *I*

Be Thou My Vision

Traditional Irish Hymn □ *I*

In Christ Alone

Keith Getty & Stuart Townend □ *I*

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Stuart Townend □ *I*

The Blessing

Kari Jobe, Cody Carnes & Elevation Worship □ *I*

Goodness of God

Jenn Johnson □ *I*

Build My Life

Pat Barrett □ *I*

A Thousand Hallelujahs

Brooke Ligertwood □ *I*

The Heart of Worship

Matt Redman □ *I*

Love Never Fails

Brandon Heath □ *I*

When I Say I Do

Matthew West □ *I*

House of Love

Amy Grant □ *I*

This Is Love

Jeremy Camp □ *I*

Dancing in the Minefields

Andrew Peterson □ *I*

Forever

Kari Jobe □ *I*

I Will Be Here

Steven Curtis Chapman □ *I*

Covenant Song

Various □ *I*

ACOUSTIC, INDIE & FOLK

Organic, intimate songs that feel personal, relaxed and beautifully understated.

Better Together

Jack Johnson ▢ *P / I*

First Day of My Life

Bright Eyes ▢ *P / I*

Home

Edward Sharpe & The Magnetic Zeros ▢ *R*

Ho Hey

The Lumineers ▢ *R*

Bloom

The Paper Kites ▢ *P / I*

You Are the Best Thing

Ray LaMontagne ▢ *R*

Such Great Heights

The Postal Service ▢ *P / I*

I Will Follow You Into the Dark

Death Cab for Cutie ▢ *I*

Sea of Love

Cat Power ▢ *P / I*

Flightless Bird, American Mouth

Iron & Wine ▢ *P / I*

The Book of Love

Peter Dinklage ▢ *P / I*

First Day of My Life

Bright Eyes ▢ *P / I*

Sweet Pea

Amos Lee ▢ *R*

Lucky

Jason Mraz & Colbie Caillat ▢ *P / I*

I'm Yours

Jason Mraz ▢ *R*

Banana Pancakes

Jack Johnson ▢ *Pre*

Falling Slowly

Glen Hansard & Markéta Irglová ▢ *I*

To Be Alone With You

Sufjan Stevens ▢ *I*

Such Great Heights

Iron & Wine ▢ *P / I*

Home

Phillip Phillips ▢ *R*

MODERN POP, INDIE POP & ALTERNATIVE

Fresh choices for couples who want their ceremony music to feel current and distinctive.

I Choose You

Sara Bareilles □ *P / I*

XO

Beyoncé □ *P / R*

Adore You

Harry Styles □ *P / I*

You Are in Love

Taylor Swift □ *P / I*

Lover

Taylor Swift □ *P / I*

Wildest Dreams

Taylor Swift □ *I*

Love Story

Taylor Swift □ *R*

Enchanted

Taylor Swift □ *P / I*

Yellow

Coldplay □ *P / I*

Us Against the World

Coldplay □ *P / I*

Adventure of a Lifetime

Coldplay □ *R*

Viva La Vida

Coldplay □ *R*

First Day of My Life

Bright Eyes □ *P / I*

Kiss Me

Sixpence None the Richer □ *P / I*

The Only Exception

Paramore □ *P / I*

Still Into You

Paramore □ *R*

Somewhere Only We Know

Keane □ *P / I*

Sweet Disposition

The Temper Trap □ *P / I*

Electric Love

BØRNS □ *R*

I Like Me Better

Lauv □ *R*

Shotgun

George Ezra □ *R*

Latch

Sam Smith □ *I*

Turning Page

Sleeping at Last □ *P / I*

You Are the Reason

Calum Scott □ *P / I*

A Sky Full of Stars

Coldplay □ *R*

LATIN & INTERNATIONAL

Romantic selections with cultural character, passion and beautiful melodic possibilities.

Bésame Mucho

Consuelo Velázquez □ *P / I*

Historia de un Amor

Carlos Eleta Almarán □ *P / I*

Sabor a Mí

Álvaro Carrillo □ *P / I*

Somos Novios

Armando Manzanero □ *P / I*

Contigo Aprendí

Armando Manzanero □ *P / I*

Por Tu Amor

Various □ *I*

Eres Tú

Mocedades □ *P / I*

Amor Eterno

Juan Gabriel □ *I*

Perfect

Ed Sheeran, Spanish Version □ *P / I*

Bailando

Enrique Iglesias □ *R*

Vivir Mi Vida

Marc Anthony □ *R*

Colgando en Tus Manos

Carlos Baute & Marta Sánchez □ *P / I*

Mi Persona Favorita

Alejandro Sanz & Camila Cabello □ *P / I*

Disfruto

Carla Morrison □ *P / I*

Tú Sí Sabes Quererme

Natalia Lafourcade □ *P / I*

A Dios le Pido

Juanes □ *R*

La Gloria Eres Tú

José Antonio Méndez □ *P / I*

Solamente Una Vez

Agustín Lara □ *P / I*

Quizás, Quizás, Quizás

Oswaldo Farrés □ *I*

La Vie En Rose

Édith Piaf □ *P / I*

FUN & JOYFUL RECESSIONALS

High-energy choices for the moment you walk back up the aisle as newlyweds.

Signed, Sealed, Delivered (I'm Yours)

Stevie Wonder □ *R*

You Make My Dreams

Hall & Oates □ *R*

This Will Be (An Everlasting Love)

Natalie Cole □ *R*

Best Day of My Life

American Authors □ *R*

Marry You

Bruno Mars □ *R*

Crazy Little Thing Called Love

Queen □ *R*

Walking on Sunshine

Katrina & The Waves □ *R*

Happy

Pharrell Williams □ *R*

Beautiful Day

U2 □ *R*

On Top of the World

Imagine Dragons □ *R*

Love on Top

Beyoncé □ *R*

You Make Loving Fun

Fleetwood Mac □ *R*

Everywhere

Fleetwood Mac □ *R*

Dancing in the Moonlight

Toploader □ *R*

I Want You Back

The Jackson 5 □ *R*

September

Earth, Wind & Fire □ *R*

Good Vibrations

The Beach Boys □ *R*

Happy Together

The Turtles □ *R*

I Got You Babe

Sonny & Cher □ *R*

Home

Edward Sharpe & The Magnetic Zeros □ *R*

Lovely Day

Bill Withers □ *R*

You Are the Best Thing

Ray LaMontagne □ *R*

I'm Yours

Jason Mraz □ *R*

Adventure of a Lifetime

Coldplay □ *R*

Haven't Met You Yet

Michael Bublé □ *R*

YOUR CEREMONY MUSIC PLAN

Circle your favorites, then narrow each moment down to the songs that feel most like you.

MOMENT	SONG	ARTIST / VERSION
Prelude		
Family Seating		
Wedding Party		
Bride / Couple Entrance		
Interlude / Unity		
Special Reading / Prayer		
Recessional		

A NOTE FROM MARY

Your ceremony music should sound like your relationship. You do not have to choose the song everyone else chooses.

Choose the song that makes you look at each other, take a breath and feel the meaning of the moment. And remember that many songs can be transformed into a completely different experience when performed live on piano, violin, guitar, harp or strings.

Mary Gehr
Master Officiant & Published Author
www.marygehr.com | info@marygehr.com

Song selections are a curated inspiration list assembled from established wedding ceremony traditions, popular wedding music references and broad genre knowledge. Song titles and artist names are listed for identification only. Couples should confirm performance, streaming or venue licensing requirements with their musicians, DJ or venue.