

Wedding Music Guide - Aaron Prillaman, Classical Guitar

The main parts of the ceremony which require music are:

- 1) Prelude/seating of guests
- 2) Processional for the wedding party
- 3) Processional for bridal entry
- 4) Recessional

In addition, music may be selected for special points of the ceremony, such as unity candle-lighting or pouring of unity sand. Music is also often desired at the reception.

Prelude/Seating of Guests:

Prior to the ceremony proper, it is customary to have a period of 15-30 minutes of light music, as guests are being seated. It is generally best not to go on too long, as guests may start seating themselves once they hear the music begin. Generally, 20 minutes is an ideal amount of time.

Processional for the Wedding Party:

The entrance processional for the wedding party is generally elegant music at a walking tempo. Aaron plays most of the popular processional choices such as Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, Air on the G String, and Air from Water Music. See his repertoire list for more options, and feel free to inquire about titles not on the list.

When the wedding party is about to enter, Aaron prefers a clear visible cue from someone not in the wedding party, generally the wedding coordinator, assistant, or guest. A clear hand signal with eye contact, as well as a 'five minute warning' worked out in advance, is best.

Processional for Bridal Entry:

The bridal entry processional is usually also elegant music at a walking tempo. This should be a separate piece of music from the wedding party processional. The bridal entry processional is the most important piece of music in the ceremony. Aaron plays most of the popular bridal entry choices such as Pachelbel's Canon in D and the Bridal Chorus by Wagner (Here Comes the Bride). Check Aaron's repertoire list for more options, and feel free to inquire about titles not on the list.

Recessional Music:

Departure of the wedding party from the ceremony site is generally accompanied by celebratory, jubilant music. Aaron plays most of the popular recessional choices such as the Wedding March by Mendelssohn and Spring by Vivaldi. Check Aaron's repertoire list for more options, and feel free to inquire about titles not on the list. Guests generally depart immediately or very soon after the wedding party to the reception area or site. The recessional is the last piece of music for the ceremony.

Special Music:

Many ceremonies only need the selections listed above, but other selections can be provided as necessary for unity candle lighting or other special moments in the ceremony.

Reception Music:

A mix of light selections can be played at the reception to provide an elegant and festive atmosphere.

Additional Information:

- If outside, Aaron prefers a spot with dry, level ground, access to an electrical outlet for amplification, shade (if possible), and a chair without arms.
- It is helpful for Aaron to receive clear directions to the ceremony site and as much advance information regarding parking and set-up as possible. Aaron double-checks directions and arrives early when possible.
- Please let Aaron know your desired choices regarding his attire at least one week before the day of the ceremony so that he can make the appropriate arrangements. If Aaron is not notified, he will wear black pants and a black shirt.
- If asked to play at the reception, Aaron takes a 5-minute break every hour during receptions of two hours or longer. The breaks can be coordinated in advance or, more commonly, left to Aaron's discretion. For the wedding ceremony itself this is, of course, not applicable.