

Planning Your Wedding Liturgy & Music at Loyola University Maryland

(revised 9/10/2025)

Congratulations on your engagement!

You have been supplied with an excellent guide for the preparation of your wedding liturgy, **“Celebrating Marriage”**, which is the one of the most complete and up-to-date resource manuals of its kind. **Before you begin actual planning we strongly encourage you to carefully read this book.** It is filled with many useful suggestions and information concerning the origins of many of our marriage customs.

As you begin to prepare the liturgy and music for your marriage celebration, we would like to take this opportunity to explain the basic principles we follow in preparing all liturgical celebrations here at Loyola.

First and foremost, the goal of all your preparation is to encourage the full and active participation of all who will gather to celebrate your marriage. This is the most crucial point. There is nothing more vital to liturgy than the active participation of all worshippers. This is the starting point of all preparation and a premise set forth by the Second Vatican Council. **Singing by the assembly** at a wedding expresses the joy and unity of the people gathered. It is an attractive and meaningful way of inviting guests to actually participate rather than remain spectators throughout the liturgy.

The **Assembly** at most weddings will be a mixture: members of the local church, visitors from others churches, people of Catholic background now inactive, alienated Catholics, Christians from other denominations, persons of other faiths, agnostics and atheists. Our first concern is to prepare a liturgy – which invites the participation of those for whom the liturgy is familiar ground. **For those who will be unfamiliar with worship in this community, we need to do everything possible to make them welcome and help them understand our prayer. We encourage all couples to prepare a printed booklet for use by your wedding guests.** The College owns the reprint licenses needed for legally reprinting music for one-time occasions. And although we cannot do the actual printing of the programs, we are more than happy to assist you in whatever way possible. Please refer to “Celebrating Marriage”(pp.107-116), for sample programs.

In the wedding liturgy, the bride and groom are ministers of the sacrament of marriage. Other ministries usually at work in the Sunday assembly also function in the wedding liturgy: **ministers of hospitality** (*ushers*), **ministers of the word** (*lectors*) and **eucharist** (*communion*), **ministers of music.** When you look for someone to serve as lector, remember that you look for someone to proclaim the very word of God. Therefore, search out women and men whose lives give evidence of their having heard and lived the word they are to proclaim. The same is true for ministers of the Eucharist.

Musicians are chosen because of the **ministry** they fill and the professional quality of their art; **therefore you must use Loyola music ministers:**

- Organist: Amy Klosterman
- Cantor & Piano: George Miller

A **Cantor**, or leader of song is indispensable at wedding liturgies. The task of this person is to *enable and motivate* the song of the assembly. This is different from a soloist who usually performs for an assembly, although the roles are not mutually exclusive. If you are considering a friend to sing for the wedding, he or she would function best as a soloist (*singing one or two songs before or during the liturgy*).

Wedding celebrations are rooted in the expectations and experience of regular Sunday celebrations. Where Sunday worship is healthy, the goal is simple: couples preparing for marriage will draw on that Sunday experience in planning their wedding. **The basic shape and outline of the wedding liturgy is precisely what the assembly does in its celebration each Sunday.**

Therefore, the same elements of the Mass that are sung each Sunday, are sung for weddings, namely:

- The Gathering Hymn
- The Responsorial Psalm
- The Gospel Acclamation (*Alleluia before the Gospel*)
- *The Eucharistic Acclamations (*Holy, Holy, Holy, Memorial Acclamation, Great Amen, Lamb of God*)
- *The Communion Song (**these are not needed if weddings are celebrated outside Mass.*)

Particular decisions about choice and placement of wedding music should grow out of three judgments set forth in *Music in Catholic Worship*, the definitive work by the United States Bishops Conference on Liturgy (1982). The **liturgical judgment:** Is the music's text, form, placement and style congruent with the nature of the liturgy? The **musical judgment:** Is the music technically, aesthetically and expressively good, irrespective of musical idiom or style? The **pastoral judgment:** Will it help the assembly to pray?

All styles of music for liturgy - classical, contemporary, and folk - should conform to these principles. No matter how personally meaningful **love songs and secular ballads** may be to you and your fiancé, these are **best left to the reception** where other dimensions of the wedding celebration prevail. **These guidelines apply to all weddings: Catholic and non-Catholic alike.**

As you approach your wedding day you will need to set up a **consultation/planning meeting** with George P. Miller, Wedding Music Coordinator. At this meeting you will be able to finalize the details of your wedding music. All proposals for wedding music selections must be submitted for approval. You may select music from the listing of suitable music included below, OR by making recommendations according to these principles. **You are not limited by the titles on this list, only by the guidelines in choosing suitable music, however music not this list may incur an additional fee.**

Suggested Music for Weddings at Loyola University Maryland

Prelude/Meditation Songs

1. [] "Ave Maria"
2. [] "The Call"
3. [] "The Gift of Love"
4. [] "In Love We Choose to Live"
5. [] "Wedding Song"

Composer

Schubert
R. Vaughan-Williams
Hopson
Cotter
Stookey

Processional & Recessional Music

7. [] Allegro from the *Water Music Suite*
8. [] Trumpet Voluntary
9. [] Rondeau
10. [] Trumpet Voluntary in D
11. [] Trumpet Tune in C
12. [] La Rejouissance
13. [] Prelude to the *Te Deum*
- *** ALSO Canon in D

Composer

Handel (*functions best as a Recessional*)
Stanley (*functions best as a Recessional*)
Mouret (*functions best as a Recessional*)
Clarke (*functions best as a Processional*)
Purcell (*functions best as a Processional*)
Handel (*functions best as a Recessional*)
Charpentier (*functions best as a Processional*)
Pachelbel. (*functions best as a Processional*)

Gathering Hymns

14. [] "Canticle of the Sun"
15. [] "Gather Us In"
16. [] "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You"
17. [] "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"
18. [] "Morning Has Broken"
19. [] "Now Thank We All Our God"
20. [] "Hear Us Now, Our God and Father"
21. [] "O Father, All Creating"
22. [] "God Who Created hearts to Love"
23. [] "When Love is Found"

Composer / Tune

Haugen
Haugen
Hymn to Joy
Hyfrydol
Bunessan
Nun Danket Alles
Hyfrydol
Aurelia
Lasst Uns Erfreuen
O Waly Waly

*Hymnal

G#631
G#913
G#663
G#767
G#3
G#690
LBW
W74
OCP
GLA

Responsorial Psalms

24. [] Ps. 24: "I Have Loved You"
25. [] Ps. 25: "To You, O Lord"
26. [] Ps. 33: "The Earth is Full of Beauty"
27. [] Ps. 34: "Taste and See"
28. [] Ps. 34: "The Cry of the Poor"
29. [] Ps. 89: "Forever I Will Sing"
30. [] Ps. 103: "The Lord is Kind & Merciful"
31. [] Ps. 103: "The Lord is Kind & Merciful"
33. [] Ps. 128: "May the Lord Bless & Protect Us"
34. [] Ps. 128: "Blest Are Those Who Love You"
35. [] Ps. 145: "Our God is Compassion"

Joncas
Haugen
Cotter
Haugen
Foley
Schoenbachler
Haugen
Cotter
Gelineau
Haugen
Cotter

GLA
G#43
WLF
G#51
G#52
OCP
GLA
G#77
W961
G#90
WLF

Gospel Acclamations

36. []	Alleluia in D	Twynham	OCF
37. []	Alleluia in C	Hughes	GLA
38. []	Celtic Alleluia	Walker	G#385

Eucharistic Prayer Acclamations

29. []	Mass of Creation	Haugen	G#231-238
40. []	A Community Mass	Proulx	G#414-418

Communion Hymns/Songs

41. []	“One Bread, One Body”	Foley	G#1042
42. []	“Here I Am, Lord”	Schutte	G#844
43. []	“We Have Been Told”	Haas	G#784
44. []	“Blest Are They”	Haas	G#735
4. []	“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”	Bach	
47. []	“Panis Angelicus”	Franck	

Code: G = “Gather” Hymnal – *Third Edition* (GIA) W = “Worship” Hymnal (GIA),
OCF = music published by Oregon Catholic Press LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship
WLF = “When Love is Found” a collection of wedding music, GIA, Publishers, Inc.

***Gather** *Fourth Edition* is our chapel hymnal.

Music chosen from other sources should be printed in an ***Order of Worship*** (*program booklet*) for the Assembly.
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Music/Liturgy Preparation Checklist:

PLEASE NOTE: George Miller (*Cantor*) and Amy Klosterman (*Organist*) will automatically receive your wedding dates from the Wedding Secretary. They need not be notified unless there are urgent & cogent issues surrounding your wedding music until *3 months before your wedding in order to schedule a music consultation.*

- 3 mos. prior:** • Contact George Miller to schedule a music consultation meeting.
- 3 mos. prior:** • Contact and secure any *optional & additional* musicians (*see below*).
- 2 mos. prior:** • Meet (Zoom or FaceTime) with George Miller for music selection
[Please note: Music stipend fees are due at the time of your consultation with Mr. Miller.]
- 2 weeks prior:** • Send your Wedding program to Mr. Miller for proof-reading.
- 2 weeks prior:** • Mail stipend check to **priest or minister**
(Please note: your stipend/ gift to the priest or minister is not included in Chapel fee.)

LOYOLA Wedding Musicians:

The organist and cantor fees are \$250.00 per person (subject to change), are due at the time of your consultation. All musician fees should be sent via ZELLE on your banking app.

George P. Miller, ***Cantor /Piano.*** unclegminor@gmail.com
Mobile/Zelle: 443-286-9215

Amy Klosterman, ***Organist*** adr1c@mac.com
Mobile/Zelle: 410-493-3537

Leah Inger, ***Substitute Cantor*** leahinger@gmail.com
Mobile/Zelle: 410-493-6323

OPTIONAL Wedding Musicians:

Fees for additional musicians are negotiated individually.

Luis Engelke, Trumpet	410.292.0718	LuisEngelke@gmail.com
Melina Gajger, Violin (<i>& string trio</i>)	410.340.4047	mgaiger@yahoo.com
Sara Nichols, Flute	443.756.3009	snicholsflute@gmail.com
Jarred Denhard, Celtic Harp/Bagpipes	410.292.6142	jdenhard@aol.com