

Ceremony Music Explanations & Top Suggestions

The Prelude - The purpose of the prelude music is to welcome guests as they are being seated before the ceremony. It also should give a cheerful yet subdued atmosphere, setting the “tone” for the event. The prelude generally begins 15 to 20 minutes before the ceremony start time, and can involve quite a few songs. Popular choices include Classical Music, Jazz, and Instrumental Love Songs. These genres can be mixed together within the prelude to suit your taste.

The Wedding Party's Processional - This marks the official beginning of the ceremony. The music should have a slow but flowing feel. It typically begins with the seating of the Grandmothers & Mothers. Next would be the entrance (from the side) of the Officiant, Groom, Best Man and Groomsmen (optional). A nice selection here might be **Angel Eyes by Jim Brickman** (instrumental). Once they're in place, the music would change for beautiful bridesmaids and other members of the wedding party (flower girls, ring bearers, etc.) to make their way down the aisle. Perhaps the most classic example here is **Canon in D by Pachelbel**, but any processional selection would be appropriate, based on your likes and dislikes.

The Bride's Processional - The bride's processional can be an incredible moment, as memorable to everyone involved as the vows or any other part of the ceremony. You should choose a very special song here. If you go with Classical music, the obvious traditional choice is **Wagner's Bridal Chorus** (“Here Comes the Bride”) or **Clarke's Trumpet Voluntary** (Prince of Denmark March). However, any piece of music that is beautiful or meaningful to *you* can be used here.

The Interlude - The interlude can actually be many different moments in the ceremony, any time there are no words being spoken for a minute or more (which may or may not apply to your ceremony). For most ceremonies, the interlude is the unity candle, memorial candle, or rose presentation. These are moments of quiet reflection, and the music you choose should encourage this mood. A popular and appropriate unity candle choice is **The Wedding Song by Paul Stookey**, partly because the lyrics mention the word “union.” Other Classical favorites include Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring by Bach, and Breathless by Kenny G.

The Recessional - At last, it's time to celebrate! The wedding officiant's pronouncement of the Bridal Couple is followed by enthusiastic applause and joyous recessional music as the happy couple makes their way back up the aisle. The song you choose here should be bright and upbeat, inviting everyone to celebrate your union. The top traditional choice for the recessional is the **Wedding March by Mendelssohn**, however, any song with a joyous upbeat feel that speaks to you will work well in this spot.

Ceremony Music

Artist

Preludes

Adagio From Sonata In E Flat	Mozart
Air On The G String (From Orchestral Suite No.3)	J.S. Bach
Air From Water Music	Handel
Allegro From Brandenburg Concerto #4 In G	J.S. Bach
Courante	Three Lute Dances
Nocturne In E Flat, Op.9 No.2	Chopin
Prelude To The Afternoon Of A Faun	Debussy
So This Is Love Instrumental "Cinderella"	David Hoffman
Waltz (From Sleeping Beauty Act 1)	Tchaikovsky

Processionals

A Midsummer Night's Dream	Mendelssohn
Canon In D	Pachelbel
Dodi Li (Jewish)	Steven Sher
Elvira Madigan Theme	Mozart
Erev Ba (Jewish)	
Erev Shel Shoshanim (Jewish)	
Heroic Marches Telemann	
Introduction	Purcell
Prelude To Te Deum	Charpentier
Romance From String Quartet	Mozart

Rondeau - Masterpiece Theater Theme
Trumpet Voluntary - Prince Of Denmark's March
Trumpet Tune
Wedding March From Lohengrin

Mouret
Clarke
Stanley
Wagner

Interludes

Air - Sheep May Safely Graze
Amen! Praise And Glory
Ave Maria
Cavalleria Rusticana Intermezzo
Greensleeves
Hymn - Finlandia
Jesu, Joy Of Man's Desiring
Let There Be Peace On Earth
London Trio #3 - Adante
Lord's Prayer
O God Of Life - Panus
O Mio Babbino Caro (Gianna Schicchi)
Pavane Pur Une Infante Defunte
Quando Men' Vo (Musetta's Waltz From La Boheme)
Red Is The Rose
Schulamite Remnant - Song Of Solomon -
Simple Gifts
Song 44 - Veni Creator
Spring - Four Seasons
The Call From Five Mystical Songs

J.S. Bach
Peacock
Schubert or Maria Gounod
Mascagni
Traditional
Grieg
J.S. Bach or Celtic Woman

Haydn

Angelicus Franck
Puccini
Ravel
Puccini

The Shakers
Orlando Gibbons
Vivaldi
Vaughan Williams

Unity Candle Songs

Always
Amazing Grace
Ave Maria
Because You Loved Me
Breathless
Circle of Life
From This Moment
Grow Old With Me
The Wedding Song
The Wedding Song
When I Said I Do
You Light Up My Life

Atlantic Starr
Lari White
Schubert
Celine Dion
Kenny G
Elton John
Shania Twain & Bryan White
Mary Chapin Carpenter
Kenny G
Paul Stookey
Clint Black and Lisa Hartman-Black
Lee Ann Rimes

Recessional

A Midsummer Night's Dream
Arrival Of The Queen Of Sheba From Solomon
Autumn - Four Seasons
First Movement From Brandenburg Concerto #1 In F
Hornpipe - Water Music
How Sweet it Is (To Be Loved By You)
I Feel Good
La Rejouissance - (Royal Fireworks Music)
Ode To Joy
Siman Tov (Jewish)
Sonata In G
Toccata From Organ Symphony # 5
Wedding March

Mendelssohn
Handel
Vivaldi
J.S. Bach
Handel
James Taylor
James Brown
Handel
Beethoven
Various Artists
Tartini
Widor
Mendelssohn