

## Music for Your Wedding

Here is some helpful information to make planning music for your wedding an easy task:

- (1) It is our practice that Central Lutheran Church organists play for all weddings held at Central. In rare circumstances organists other than those employed by Central may play for weddings. Such requests need to be cleared with our director of music or associate musician.
- (2) In most cases Central's associate musician plays for weddings. Should she be unavailable for your wedding date, another of Central's organists will be appointed to play.
- (3) Contact the assigned musician two months before your wedding date to schedule a consultation regarding all your wedding music. Consultations, *included in the organist portion of the church fee*, usually take between 30 and 45 minutes.
- (4) If you are making use of a vocal soloist or instrumentalist it is up to that person to contact the assigned musician directly to arrange rehearsal times. Please note that the organist's portion of the church fee covers a brief rehearsal the day of the wedding. Additional rehearsals may incur additional fees.
- (5) The couple is responsible for getting printed music for vocal or instrumental soloists to the Central musician assigned to their service in a timely fashion (generally not less than two weeks before the wedding date).
- (6) Regarding selection of music, especially vocal solos or choral pieces with text: Since the wedding ceremony *is* a service of worship, selections *must* be appropriate for use at any church service (i.e. sacred in nature). Save secular selections for use at the reception. It is the responsibility of Central's director of music to make final decisions regarding vocal music with text. Solos to be included in any wedding ceremony must be submitted to Central's associate musician no later than six weeks prior to the date of the wedding—preferably at the time of the consultation.

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### CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*in the heart of the city, welcomes all people  
to celebrate, discover and share the love of Christ*

333 South Twelfth Street • Minneapolis, MN 55404

Office – 612-870-4416 • Infoline – 612-767-9101 • [www.centralmpls.org](http://www.centralmpls.org)



- (7) Recordings are sometimes helpful to share during the consultation. On occasion the organist is presented with requests for playing movements of symphonies, operas, etc. Again, the nature of the piece plays an important role as does the availability of a good organ or piano transcription. Again, it is important to check with the organist as soon as possible if your selection may involve something like this.
- (8) Most often, works written specifically for the organ (or piano) are preferred—they simply sound the best—not forced. Tried and trusted transcriptions are also good choices—the consultation is a time when possibilities can be explored.
- (9) No recorded music is permitted during, before or after the wedding service. This includes soloist accompaniments on CD.
- (10) The singing of hymns can be a welcomed addition to the wedding service—providing those in attendance are *likely* to sing. Nothing can be as joyous as a singing congregation or, on the flip side, as tedious as a group of people enduring the organist playing four stanzas of a hymn while no one is singing. Hymns that focus on marriage and community in Christ are especially poignant. (See the **Suggested Hymns** section on the following pages.)

Please note that soloist and instrumentalist (other than organist) fees are not included in the Central fee schedule. Soloist and instrumentalist fees can range anywhere from around \$150 to \$700.



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