

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING MUSIC

INITIAL CONTACT WITH THE LITURGICAL MUSIC DIRECTOR

Once you begin your marriage ceremony preparation at Corpus Christi University Parish, please contact our office. Your actual planning meeting should be scheduled six to eight weeks and **no later** than four weeks before your wedding. Please note that you are personally responsible for being involved in planning your wedding music. Parents and others may be invited to take part strictly in an advisory capacity, but the Parish Liturgical Music Director will work primarily with the bridal couple only, and both bride and groom should take part in the planning process.

SELECTING YOUR MUSIC

A Church wedding is not only a very personal event; it is also a Sacrament of the Church. As such, the religious nature of the ceremony must be carefully preserved. However meaningful some music may be to the couple personally, the principle that governs the sacredness and acceptability of the wedding music is the religious aspect. With all due respect to other styles of musical expression, only liturgically appropriate music may be used at weddings. Popular and secular music, such as Broadway, film music, top 40 songs, and taped music (previously recorded music) are not appropriate for liturgical use in Church during the wedding ceremony. This general policy also refers to vocal and instrumental music performed during the Prelude, Communion Meditation, and Postlude, etc. All music, sacred or classical in nature, is to be approved by the Liturgical Music Director.

The Parish requests that you also honor the tone of the liturgical season that corresponds with the date of your wedding. For instance, some types of music may not fit with the more subdued nature of the Advent or Lenten seasons of the Church's liturgical calendar year. The Liturgical Music Director will guide you through these sensitivities as they relate to the liturgical calendar and will help you make suitable musical selections for the wedding liturgy and assist you in completing the Music Selection Form.

MUSICIANS FOR YOUR WEDDING CEREMONY

It is the responsibility of the Liturgical Music Director to preserve the integrity of the liturgy as regards the musical portion of your ceremony. Ordinarily, the Parish Liturgical Music Director will be the primary musician leading the music program for your wedding. Outside of the Parish musicians (or those musicians contracted by the parish to play at your wedding), the Liturgical Music Director will be responsible for approving any friends, relatives or acquaintances of the bride or groom wishing to offer their vocal or instrumental assistance for your wedding at Corpus Christi University Parish. If there are any musicians whom you wish to have play at your wedding, please inform the Liturgical Music Director at the time of your initial phone conversation. You must also have your guest musicians contact the Liturgical Music Director to discuss the Parish's musical guidelines, set a time for a possible audition, and schedule a meeting to rehearse the music. A rehearsal with guest musicians is mandatory and may not be omitted for any reason.

DAY OF THE REHEARSAL

There will not be musical accompaniment during the wedding rehearsal at Corpus Christi University Parish. The purpose of the rehearsal is to serve as a “dry run” for familiarizing the wedding party with the flow of the ceremony. From this, you can see why it is very important that any guest musicians must meet with the Music Director before the wedding rehearsal and day of the ceremony.

MUSICIAN’S FEES (These fees are on top of the parish fees)

In order to avoid any confusion on the day of your wedding, please remember to bring all musician fees for staff musicians and musicians provided by the Parish before the wedding ceremony. If you like, these fees may be paid prior to the rehearsal date. However, **all fees must be remitted no later than the rehearsal**. The schedule of Musicians’ fees for musicians from the Corpus Christi University Parish Music Program is:

1. \$150.00 for the Music Director, if he plays or supervises at your Ritual Mass for the Celebration of Marriage or your Celebration of Marriage outside of Mass
2. \$100.00 for the “Bench Fee” established by the American Guild of Organists’ Code of Professional Ethics, when you request that another, properly qualified organist or musician is allowed to play at your wedding. This properly compensates the staff musicians, while allowing you to select such a musician to play at your wedding. The Parish Music Director will determine whether or not a musician is sufficiently qualified to play at your wedding. **AND/OR**
3. \$100.00 for a Cantor provided by the parish. A cantor is required for all wedding liturgies at Corpus Christi University Parish. You may ask the Parish to provide a Cantor, or the Liturgical Music Director can serve as Cantor. If the Music Director serves as your cantor, they only receive the fees listed in Items 1 **or** 2 above. You may also consider inviting a friend to serve as Cantor. (If you choose to ask a friend or family member to serve as Cantor, the person must be approved by the Liturgical Music Director after an audition) **AND**
4. \$25.00 minimum for a required rehearsal with any approved instrumental or vocal musicians among your family or friends whom you invite to perform at your wedding.

Fees for instrumental or vocal musicians recruited by Corpus Christi University Parish from **outside the parish music program** will depend on prevailing wages and local custom, as well as on the rates of the individual musicians. The Liturgical Music Director will guide you in these matters at the time that you meet with him. **Note that all musicians’ fees cited here are subject to increase. Please consult the music director inside the designated time frame to determine current fee schedules.**

Fees for instrumental or vocal musicians recruited by the bridal party from outside the Parish are the exclusive responsibility of the bride and bridal party. Corpus Christi University Parish accepts no responsibility for payment of musicians recruited by the bride or groom.