

# **DIVINE MERCY CATHOLIC PARISH WEDDING MUSIC GUIDELINES AND POLICIES**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The music for your wedding is an important part of making the sacramental celebration of your marriage a beautiful, prayerful and joyful event. The Office of Music Ministry at Divine Mercy Catholic Parish will guide you in planning your music and will provide all of the vocal and instrumental musicians who will be engaged at the wedding.

Since you have asked to be married in the context of the Catholic Faith, the wedding celebration becomes a religious celebration of the community. It is not only a celebration between the bride and groom, but also a celebration which is sustained by the presence of God in the worshipping community.

Given that marriage is one of the sacraments of the Church, selected music should be based on Sacred Scripture or be Christian in nature. The appropriate time for music without religious themes would be during the reception. This policy includes the popular “Bridal Chorus” from Wagner’s *Lohengrin* (known as ‘Here Comes the Bride’) and Felix Mendelssohn’s “Wedding March” from *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* as the themes these operas include are not suitable for sacred liturgy.

A parish organist is required for all weddings. A parish cantor is required for all weddings. The minimum music fee for a parish wedding is \$325.00 (Organist - \$200; Cantor - \$125).

## **PLANNING**

After contacting the Parish Office couples must contact the Parish Office of Music Ministry at least twelve (12) weeks before the wedding to begin arranging your music. Couples will be provided with a resources for appropriate wedding music, and, the couples can schedule the consultation appointments to finalize your music. After listening to the resources, the couple makes a list of selections and brings the list at the time of the consultation. The music selections must be appropriate to the solemn sacramental nature of the liturgical celebration of marriage. Accordingly, be sure to meet with a priest or deacon to choose the readings for the liturgy before your music consultation.

## **ORGANIST/PRINCIPAL MUSICIAN**

A parish organist will be engaged for all weddings requiring music at Divine Mercy Parish. The parish organist assigned to your wedding is the principal musician for your wedding. Following your consultation with the Director of Liturgical Music, who will guide you through the initial music selection process, your organist will assist you with your musical needs. Any questions regarding the suitability of wedding music selections are decided by your organist and ultimately by the Director of Music.

## **CANTOR/VOCALIST**

The cantor sings the Responsorial Psalm and aids in congregational singing. A parish cantor will be engaged for each wedding liturgy at Divine Mercy Parish. The Director of Music or your organist/principal musician will secure the services of the cantor for your wedding. The cantor is also the vocal soloist. He or she sings the vocal solos that have been scheduled for your wedding.

## **INSTRUMENTALISTS**

Additional instrumentalists (trumpets, violins, etc.) may be contracted as part of the wedding music. The Director of Music or principal musician engages instrumentalists who are superbly skilled and experienced in providing liturgical music in each church. The Music Department contracts all instrumentalists for parish weddings. The Director of Music will help you with the selection process for instrumentals at the planning meeting (consultation).

## **NON-PARISH MUSICIANS**

Due to the high level of skill required, familiarity with wedding liturgies, and experience in performing at all church sites, the use of non-parish musicians for weddings is discouraged. In the event, however, that you wish to request a non-parish musician for your wedding, the following applies:

Submit an audio recording of the musician (CD, MP3, DVD or internet pages/links), to the

Director of Music at least two months before the scheduled wedding music planning time (consultation). The Director of Music will use the recording to determine the musician's ability to fulfill their musical role in the liturgy, in order to insure the quality of musical and liturgical prayer at your wedding.

Only qualified liturgical musicians (no matter musical ability) are permitted to lead the music for your wedding. In this case, a parish organist and/or cantor will be engaged. In the event that a non-parish musician is engaged to perform, the couple is still required to pay a bench fee to the parish organist and/or cantor as outlined below.

Rehearsal time with a non-parish musician and a member of the parish music staff may be arranged. This rehearsal may require an extra fee.

Do not make arrangements with other musicians.

## **MUSIC FEES**

**Organist \$200.00\* (including rehearsal)**

**Cantor \$125.00\* (including rehearsal)**

The above mentioned are base fees which include the consultation, preparation and performance of the wedding liturgy. When non-parish musicians or larger ensembles of musicians are requested, additional rehearsal time and preparation time may be reflected in additional music fees. The Director of Music or your organist/principal musician will inform you of the exact amount of music fees due for your wedding at the planning meeting. These fees must be submitted to the secretary in the Parish office two weeks days prior to the wedding.

**PRE-RECORDED MUSIC:** In accord with liturgical guidelines, the use of pre-recorded music is **NEVER** permitted in parish liturgies. There are no exceptions.

## **WEDDING MUSIC COMPACT DISCS**

When you call to make your music planning consultation appointment with the Director of Liturgical Music, you must also make arrangements to receive examples of wedding music for you to review. After listening to the recordings, please make a list of selections and bring it to the planning meeting. While the music on the recording does not exhaust all possibilities, it contains a large sampling of pieces which are most effective, and most requested for the wedding liturgies.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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