

## Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church

Indianapolis' original Catholic parish and former pro-cathedral  
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# WEDDING MUSIC POLICY

for Weddings in 2017

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Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church has a rich tradition of sacred music that has existed for 140 years. It is important that music of an appropriately sacred nature be chosen for your wedding. There are many fine pieces of music and hymns available that would be most appropriate for your special celebration. *Mainstream "pop music" is not appropriate for any sacred liturgy celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.*

Our Director of Music generally serves as the Organist and/or Pianist for weddings here and is responsible for overseeing the selection of music at all weddings here. He is available to assist you in planning the music for your wedding, to arrange for any additional musicians you may need, and to assist you with the layout of your wedding program/worship aid. It is his responsibility to insure that all music you choose is appropriate and that your wedding program/worship aid is liturgically correct.

If you have a relative or friend who is a trained organist/pianist and is familiar with the format of a Catholic wedding liturgy or ceremony, you are welcome to invite that person to serve as the performing Organist/Pianist at your wedding. *Only experienced organists are qualified to play our pipe organ.* If the person you have in mind is uncomfortable with the idea of being your Organist/Pianist, it is best to leave that most important role to St. John's Director of Music.

The Director of Music *does not* automatically attend the Wedding Rehearsal unless requested to do so by either the Couple or by the Officiant. He may choose to attend the rehearsal if the presiding priest is not one with whom he has previously worked. If this is the case, there is no additional fee, nor would he expect to attend your Rehearsal Dinner.

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## **MUSIC SELECTION GUIDELINES**

- **Only music of a sacred or classical nature** is allowed. This includes the Prelude Music, the Wedding Ceremony or Wedding Mass itself, and the Postlude Music.
- **We do not allow the playing of pre-recorded music** (CDs or cassette tapes) at any time in the Church. This includes the time prior to, and after, the wedding.
- **Instruments:** There is an excellent 50-stop pipe organ in the Choir Loft and a Baldwin grand piano in the South Transept. Either or both may be used for your wedding.
- **Singers:** We prefer to rely on the experience of a Cantor from St. John's, or one arranged for by our Music Director. If you have a relative or friend who is a *properly experienced singer*, that person may serve as the Cantor and lead the "core music" of the ceremony. Otherwise, this person should only sing appropriate solo(s).
- **Wedding Program/Worship Aid:** You are required to have available some kind of worship aid so that your wedding guests can fully participate in all spoken and musical responses. This would include the Responsorial Psalm, Gospel Acclamation, and any hymns being sung.
  1. **If you prefer to layout the Wedding Program on your own**, you must provide the Director of Music with a copy of the finished original for proofreading before you have the programs duplicated. In this way we can be certain that the Order of the Wedding Liturgy is correct. In this case, the Music Director will prepare for you a double-sided sheet "Music For the Wedding Ceremony" which must be handed out along with your Wedding Program.
  2. **If you prefer to have the Director of Music can layout the entire Wedding Program for you**, he will help you plan what needs to go in the booklet (including any special messages or poetry you may desire to include), submit it to you for proofing, and produce a finished original. You are then responsible for using the finished original to have the booklets copied or printed. The choice of paper type is completely up to you.

## **MUSICIAN FEES**

The fees for our Organist/Pianist and for the Cantor/Vocalist **are included in the fee you have paid** to St. John's. If you choose to use musicians not supplied by St. John's, they must be approved by the St. John Director of Music, and will be paid those fees by St. John's.

If you desire **additional musicians** (such as trumpet, violin, harp, string quartet, additional singers, etc.), **the Couple is responsible for paying those additional musicians their fees directly**; they are not paid through St. John's.