

## Music for Weddings at Good Shepherd

The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage is a sacramental rite of the Church; the music should reflect the solemnity as well as the joy of the occasion. As with other rites of the Church, the canons and rubrics govern the choices available.

More specifically, texts of hymns and other music must be from the Hymnal 1982, the Book of Common Prayer, or from Holy Scripture. Texts of a secular source are not permitted. Also, music of a light, romantic nature or from Broadway shows, film scores, and other popular sources is not allowed, but may be included in the the reception following the service.

The church at Good Shepherd is known for its excellent, reverberant acoustics making it an ideal setting for un-amplified choral music, instrumental and vocal solo music, and organ music. Since the church's reverberant acoustics are not conducive to music requiring amplification such as pre-recorded music accompaniments (tracks), or singing with a hand-held microphone, this style of music and/or the addition of auxiliary amplification equipment is not permitted. In cases where a soloist may need a gentle boost, the microphone used for lay readers (attached to the lectern) may be used.

The normal pattern of musical pieces is:

### **15-20 minute prelude**

- The organist will provide music of his or her choice (classical, traditional organ repertoire) prior to the appointed hour of the wedding. Instrumentalists or soloists may also perform at this time. (If hired by the organist, an additional fee for contracting and/or a rehearsal will apply.) Special requests will be honored when possible and appropriate; however, the couple should bear in mind that they will not be in a location where they can hear the prelude music.

### **Procession in: Instrumental piece or hymn**

#### **Service music:**

If desired, a hymn or other musical selection (solo or organ) are appropriate:

- Following the Declaration of Consent (BCP page 425)
- Between readings (BCP page 426)

If there is to be Communion, musical selections are appropriate:

- At the Offertory, as the altar is prepared
- During Communion (Note: This is the only place where a lengthy solo would be appropriate.)
- After Communion, as the altar is cleared

### **Procession out: Instrumental (organ) piece or hymn**

You will be provided with the organist's contact information to set up a time to plan the service music. The use of organists other than those approved by Good Shepherd will be considered on an individual basis and approval is solely at the discretion of the staff organist.