



# St. Paul's Church | Harvard Square

29 Mount Auburn Street, Cambridge MA 02138

Email: [music@saintpaulschoirschool.us](mailto:music@saintpaulschoirschool.us)



## Wedding Music: *A Guide*

Congratulations on your engagement! We look forward to making your wedding service beautiful, memorable, and meaningful to you and your guests. St. Paul's is renowned for the quality of its liturgical music and is home to one of the finest traditional choirs of boys and men in the world. Music is an excellent way to enhance the wedding liturgy and is particularly effective in bringing together people who may come from different religious traditions or no tradition at all.

This guide has been designed to help you choose music for your wedding at St. Paul's. Music is an important aid to prayer and an ancient adornment to the sacred liturgy. St. Paul's has a nationally renowned music program, and we will help you choose music that reflects the great cultural treasury of the Catholic Church. Selections from other Christian denominations may also be acceptable provided that they are theologically and musically sound.

To this end, we have compiled a selection of some of the most appropriate music chosen for weddings. While you may suggest alternative items, the list is all that is needed to make excellent choices. **In the event of hiring the choir of men and boys, approval of the Director of Music, James Kennerley, must be gained for all requests, as repertoire needs to fit in with the general schemes and plans of the choir.** It is expected that all weddings at St. Paul's, be they a ceremony or a full Mass, will use at least a cantor and the organ. St. Paul's is blessed with the finest Roman Catholic choir of men and boys in America (see [www.saintpaulschoirschool.us](http://www.saintpaulschoirschool.us)), which is available to hire for weddings during the academic year. Some couples like to add a trumpet to the organ for a thrilling fanfare sound. The boys of the Choir are also available to hire as a separate group. *Sometimes, a couple will know a singer who may be a Cantor at another Church; it is always appropriate for such a friend to sing a solo (such as an offertory motet) but the Cantoring of the other parts must be performed by a 'home' Cantor at all times, booked by the Director of Music.*

You will find *YouTube* and *Spotify* very useful in finding recordings of the suggestions offered here. Please fill out the attached form and return it to the Music Department for consideration.

Email is the preferred method of communication. Please send all correspondence to the Music Office at [music@saintpaulschoirschool.us](mailto:music@saintpaulschoirschool.us)

DATE OF WEDDING \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT INFORMATION *Name* \_\_\_\_\_

*Email* \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER of people processing before the bride \_\_\_\_\_

APPROX. # of guests expected \_\_\_\_\_

CANTOR: *Yes/No (not needed if Choir is booked)* \_\_\_\_\_

CHOIR of men and boys? *Yes/No*

BOYS choir? *Yes/No*

MEN of the choir? *Yes/No*

TRUMPET? *Yes/No*

As you choose music for the wedding, please consider the mood you would like to create. For instance, you might like your processions to be quiet and elegant, or bold and stately. Would you like a contrasting piece for the bride's procession? Would you like your recessional to be fast and exciting, or broad and joyous? The organist will play for around 15-20 minutes before the wedding, creating a joyful and robust mood. We do not encourage the use of hymns, since we find people rarely join in at weddings. The *Gloria* is not required unless you have booked the choir to sing it.

Your choices are as follows:

PRELUDE *which occurs as people arrive and before the wedding begins.*

\_\_\_ A selection of organ music by the organist, including Bach and Handel

\_\_\_ Handel: *Largo from Xerxes,*

\_\_\_ Bach: *Air (on the G string) from Suite No. 3*

\_\_\_ Bach: *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

\_\_\_ Handel: *Air from Water Music*

\_\_\_ Vaughan Williams: *Rhosymedre*

\_\_\_ Whitlock: *Andante Tranquillo*

\_\_\_ Mendelssohn: *Sonata 3, Andante*

\_\_\_\_\_ Mozart: Andante in F

\_\_\_\_\_ Your suggestion, to be discussed: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROCESSIONALS** (*you need 2 processionals: one for the bride, and one for everyone before the bride. Consider contrasting music. Any of the above prelude music could also be used.*).

\_\_\_\_\_ Wagner: Bridal Chorus *from* Loehngrin

\_\_\_\_\_ Handel: Arrival of the Queen of Sheeba

\_\_\_\_\_ Jeremiah Clarke: Trumpet Voluntary/Prince of Denmark's March

\_\_\_\_\_ Purcell: Trumpet Tune

\_\_\_\_\_ Handel: La Rejouissance

\_\_\_\_\_ Pachelbel: Canon in D

#### PSALM

\_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 128 'Thy Wife shall be as a fruitful vine'

\_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 23 'The Lord is my Shepherd'

#### GOSPEL ALLELUIA

\_\_\_\_\_ Traditional Gregorian Alleluia

#### INTERLUDE/OFFERTORY MOTET

\_\_\_\_\_ Schubert: Ave Maria (Cantor or Boys sing)

\_\_\_\_\_ Oliver: Wedding Anthem (Cantor or Boys sing)

\_\_\_\_\_ Handel: Angels Ever Bright and Fair (Cantor or Boys sing)

\_\_\_\_\_ De Long: Fairest Lord Jesus (Cantor or Boys sing)

\_\_\_\_\_ Many other options: please consult Mr. Kennerley, Director of Music.

MASS SETTING *Since there are so many various settings and styles prevalent in the Catholic Church, we offer the chants of the new Roman Missal if you are keen that the congregation should sing the Sanctus and Agnus. Since everyone will be from different traditions, we would recommend that you leave these parts to the Cantor or the Choir, so that the people can concentrate on praying the words at these points.*

- \_\_\_ Roman Missal Congregational Chants
- \_\_\_ Langlais: Missa in Simplicitate (Boys' Choir or cantor)
- \_\_\_ Fauré: Messe Basse (Boys' Choir or cantor)
- \_\_\_ Byrd: Mass for Three Voices (Gentlemen of the choir)
- \_\_\_ Mozart: Spätzen Messe (Full Choir)

#### COMMUNION MOTET

- \_\_\_ Franck: Panis Angelicus (Boys' Choir or cantor)
- \_\_\_ Lalouette: O Mysterium Ineffabile (Boys' Choir or cantor)
- \_\_\_ Mozart: Ave Verum (Boys' Choir or cantor)
- \_\_\_ Mozart: Laudate Dominum (Boys' Choir or cantor)
- \_\_\_ Leighton: O Sacrum Convivium (Boys' Choir)
- \_\_\_ Palestrina O Sacrum Convivium (Gentlemen of the choir)
- \_\_\_ Many other options (Full Choir)

#### RECESSIONAL

- \_\_\_ Mendelssohn: Wedding March *from* "A midsummer night's dream"
- \_\_\_ Handel: Hornpipe *from* Water music
- \_\_\_ Bach: Prelude and Fugue in G Major
- \_\_\_ Handel: La Rejouissance *from* Fireworks

# HYMNS

Traditional Catholic hymns work best at St' Paul's. Contemporary worship songs (such as Eagles Wings, Be not afraid, Here I am Lord) are generally not permitted due to their poor musical quality and lack of theological integrity. This judgment is required to be made by Catholic musicians in *Sing to the Lord*, issued by The US Conference of Bishops. Please contact us for further hymn advice.

# FEES

## Weddings held at St. Paul's:

Cantor/vocal soloist (required): **\$200**

Organist (required when booking Cantor, boys, men or both): **\$450-750** depending on repertoire (please email for further information)

Director of music (required when booking boys, men or both): **\$450-850** depending on repertoire (please email for further information)

Trumpet: **\$300**

Choir of Men and Boys: **\$5000**

Boys only: **\$3500**

Men only: **\$1500**

## Weddings at venues other than St. Paul's:

Bus hire if hiring the Choir: **\$70 per hour**

Additional choir fees: **\$500 for boys, \$1000 for men and boys**

Additional offsite fee for Organist/Conductor: **\$25/hour** spent away from St. Paul's (for events within 30 minutes' drive of Harvard Square, this is typically 2 hours total).

**Payment must be received seven days before your ceremony. Failure to submit the fees on this time schedule will result in a cancellation of the ceremony. Organist, cantor, and trumpet fees are made out directly to the performers by check, cash, or electronic transfer. Fees for the Choir are made via check out to Saint Paul's Choir School. Upon receipt of this completed form we will send you the appropriate invoices.**

## REFUSING THE SERVICES OF THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

You are welcome to decline the services of the Church's music staff in favor of musical friends and relatives. However, should you choose to do this, you would be liable to pay a 'bench fee' to the organist and cantor who would be otherwise performing at the wedding (\$450 and \$250 respectively). This is because the Music Department has the first refusal on all extraordinary services such as Weddings and Funerals.

Please note that even if you choose to pursue this option, you are **required** to discuss all musical choices with the Music Department.

## NEXT STEPS

We look forward to making your wedding beautiful and memorable for you and your guests! Here is a summary of the next steps you need to take:

1. Now: Make contact with the Music Department for an initial discussion.
2. 1-2 weeks: fill out this form and email it to the Music Department, along with the \$150 deposit (made out to the organist).
3. 2 weeks before your ceremony: mail checks or make electronic payments to the organist/cantor/choir school etc for the amounts due per your invoice.

## THANK YOU!

We are always available should you have any further questions.