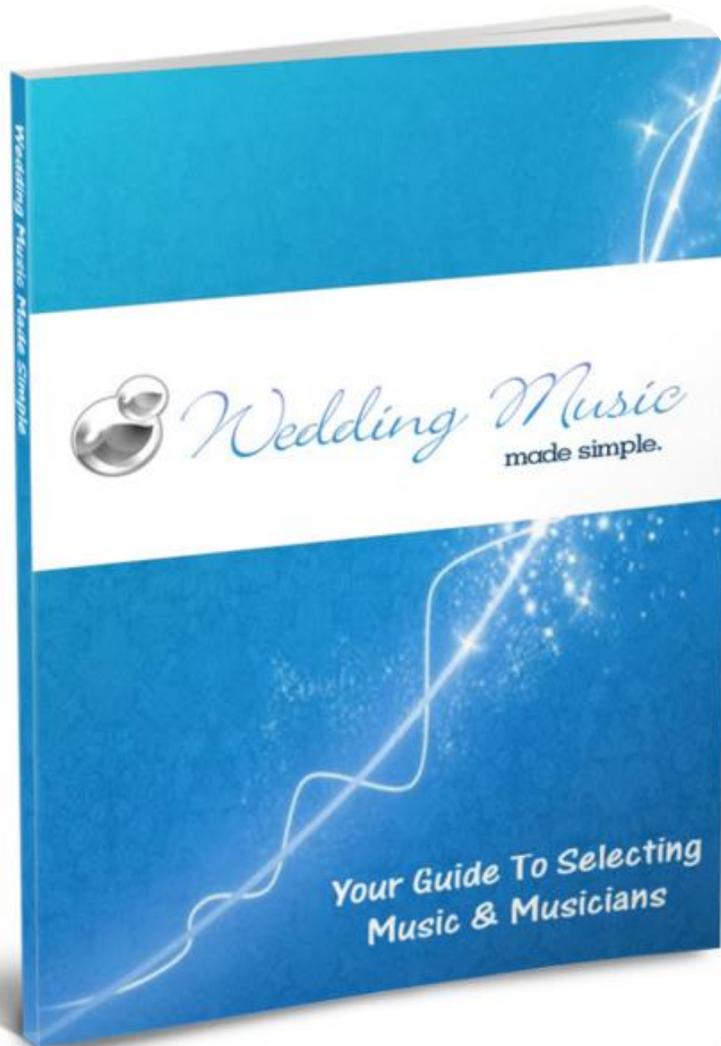




Wedding Music

made simple.



Welcome,



When I was six years old I saw Itzhak Perlman performing on TV with an orchestra and promptly said, “This is what I want to do!” and I have been playing violin ever since.

As a musician I have felt the power of music and its ability to take people to another level of feeling. I have seen people smile when their favorite tune hits their ears and I have watched tears stream down people’s faces when the music brings back old memories from decades ago.

Music is so powerful, it can make people dance or it can take their breath away. Your wedding day is your great celebration, it is the reflection of your love for one another.

You and your fiancé have your own unique story of how you met and fell in love. You are probably smiling right now just thinking of it! Your wedding day provides an opportunity to recapture this story and share it with everyone at your ceremony.

Through years of working with brides I have experienced how thankful they are and how much they benefitted from having a wedding music list that was tailored to their wedding style. This e-book is a compilation of all the information that I share with brides-to-be as they make musical decisions for their wedding.

I hope you find this guide helpful in simplifying the process of selecting the music & musicians for your big day!

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Summer Song".



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Introduction:

Congratulations! Your dream day is approaching and you want to make sure everything goes smoothly. By now you have been flipping through magazines, browsing websites, searching for the best dress, decorations & colors that reflect who you are.

With all these decisions it's easy to get overwhelmed but choosing your music & musicians doesn't have to be an extra stress.

Choosing music selections to match your day and hiring musicians can be simple and this guide will show you how.

We have purposely made this guide short & to the point to make it easy for you. After searching websites with long lists of music selections this will be a welcomed change.

At this point, you may want to stop and print this e-book so that you can take notes as you go. By the time you finish reading this guide you will have a complete blueprint that is custom fit to you! You can use the discoveries in this guide for yourself or hand it to your musicians to make their job easier. So, let's get started and don't forget to have fun with this process!



Chapter 1 - Identifying Your Style

All of your decisions big and small come together seamlessly to create your wedding style, your reflection of you as a couple. Take a minute to select the words from below that describe your wedding. Through identifying what words describe your wedding style, you are setting a foundation for identifying your musical style selections and instrumentation.

Which words below resonate with you?

- Classic
- Traditional
- Formal
- Modern
- Fresh
- Simple
- Lavish
- Extravagant
- Fun & Funky
- Earthy
- Jazzy
- Timeless
- Iconic (1920's)
- Beach

Other: _____

Other: _____

Other: _____

Here are some other factors that influence the type of music & musicians that you hire.

- Outdoor/Indoor
- Location
- Size
- Colors
- Time of day
- Length of wedding

Summarize your wedding style using your selections from above:

Now that you have outlined your wedding style, we will move on to the next step - **Creating Ambiance With Your Music.**



Chapter 2: Creating Ambiance With Your Music

Music is one of the few things that can tie everything together on your wedding day. It has the power to instantly draw emotions out in people.

Take a minute to visualize how you want your guests to feel. Jubilant? Awe-struck? For example, if you choose a slow and reflective piece of music for your bridal entrance song your guests will respond differently than if you select a faster, livelier piece of music. Here are examples of two very different bridal entrance songs.

Example:

- Canon in D, Pachelbel
- Spring, Movement 1 from Four Seasons, Vivaldi

If you choose the Cannon in D for the entrance song, it will capture the beauty & elegance of the day. Teary eyed guests will gaze upon you.

On the other hand, if you choose a Vivaldi style piece it will create excitement and a celebratory mood for you and the guests at your wedding. Expect to see big smiles as you pass your guests.

You are literally able to change the energy & direction of the ceremony with your music selections. On the next page you will find another example regarding setting the ambiance through music during the father- daughter dance.

The father-daughter dance can be one of the most emotional moments of the entire wedding reception. It is during this song that the father is having ‘one last dance’ with his newly married daughter before she starts her new journey with her husband.

Example:

- Butterfly Kisses, Bob Carlisle
- Isn't She Lovely, Stevie Wonder

The slow reflective nature of the ‘Butterfly Kisses’ will not leave a dry eye in the house (including the father of the bride) as the words capture each stage of the daughter’s life up until her wedding day.

On the other hand, Stevie Wonder’s ‘Isn’t She Lovely’ is a faster song that is up-beat and light hearted while still outlining the caring relationship between the father and daughter.

Keeping in mind your descriptions from chapter one and the examples above, write a brief sentence below of what mood you want to set with your music

You can play with this a little bit as you do not have to keep the same mood all the way through the ceremony. You may want to set one mood initially and then progress to another by the end of the ceremony.

By now you should be aware of the influence that your music selections will have on your wedding day. The next chapter, **Music Terminology**, will help decide when and where you might want music on your wedding day.



Chapter 3 - Music Terminology

Processional, prelude, postlude...what do all of these mean and how much do I need to choose? As you become familiar with the terms below it will ensure you and your musicians have clear communication and are on the same page from the start.

In addition, at the end of this e-book you will find a check list to make your music selection process very simple.

Wedding Ceremony Terminology:

- **Prelude:** Music as the guests arrive. It is standard to begin the prelude music 15 minutes before the wedding ceremony begins.
- **Processional:*** Wedding party & bride entrance. This can also include the lighting of the candles, grandparents & parents seating if you wish.
- **Ceremony:** Any music that happens during the ceremony (solos, unity candle, communion etc.)
- **Recessional:** This is played as the bride & groom and bridal party exit.
- **Postlude:** Music as guests exit. It is standard to have the postlude played for up to 15 minutes.

When selecting music for your wedding, you only need to choose **processional, ceremony & recessional** songs. Professional musicians can select the prelude & postlude music for you.

The song selection for the wedding party and the bride entrance can be the same piece or you can choose two different pieces. For the lighting of candles and seating of grandparents & parents, you can choose a piece or you can make it simple and have your musicians choose this music for you as part of the prelude.

Wedding Reception Terminology:

- **Introduction Entrance Songs:** Announcement of the arrival of the wedding party.
- **First Dance:** This song is played during the first dance as husband & wife.
- **Father – Daughter Dance:** The bride shares a special dance with her father.
- **Mother - Son Dance:** The groom shares a special dance with his mother.
- **Wedding Party Dance:** This selection opens up the dance floor to the wedding party after the above dances.

More Options:

- Bouquet toss songs
- Cake cutting songs
- Wedding dinner songs
- Garter toss songs
- Last dance
- Dollar dance

In regards to your reception music, if you hire a DJ or a live band they can cover most of the song selections above for you if you do not wish to choose them yourself.

Now on to **Selecting Your Instrumentation.**



Chapter 4 - Selecting Your Instrumentation

Instrumentation is the combination of instruments that will be performing together. When selecting your instrumentation think of your style, budget and location.

Here are the most recommended ceremony instrumentation options:

<u>Solo:</u>	<u>Duo:</u>	<u>Trio:</u>	<u>Quartet:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guitar• Piano• Organ• Violin• Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Violin/cello• Voice & piano• Voice & guitar• Flute (or violin) & harp• Trumpet & piano	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• String trio (violin, viola, cello or 2 violins & cello)• Flute, violin, cello• Jazz Trio	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• String Quartet (2 violins, viola, cello)

The most important aspect of choosing the instrumentation for the ceremony is to know (or ask) which instruments sound good together. For example: trumpet, piano & violin don't blend well together. If you have a preference of a unique combination of instruments be sure to ask the musicians if they will blend well. Happily, piano can be paired safely with almost any other instrument.

Resist the urge to have all your friends and/or family who sing or play an instrument be involved. There are way too many weddings where someone sings or plays an instrument that is not a professional and they get nervous and thus, don't sound their best. If it is very meaningful to you that someone be involved make sure they are comfortable performing in front of people or think about having them contribute at the reception.



Chapter 5 - Music Selections

Congratulations! You have identified your wedding style, selected your music mood, learned music terminology and defined your instrumentation preference. Now for the fun part, listening to music!

On the next page, you will find musical selections grouped by various “styles” to make choosing your wedding music simple. No longer will you need to be confused, sitting at the computer looking at long lists of music wondering, where do I start?

Use your descriptions and words from throughout this guide to help you decide which category or style to listen to first. Within each style there are various song options to choose from that reflect that style accordingly.

You can choose directly from this list or use it as a starting point for discussion with your musicians. If you know your wedding music style in general it will be easy for your musicians to suggest other pieces you might like if need be.

Music listening examples can easily be found by clicking the link below.

If you are reading a printed version of this e-guide, you can also type in www.weddingmusicmadesimple.com/songs/ to find these listening examples.

Traditional Classical:

Processional

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, J.S. Bach
Canon in D, Pachelbel
Bridal Chorus, Wagner ("Here Comes the Bride")

Unity Candle

Ave Maria, Bach

Recessional

Wedding March, Mendelssohn
Rondeau, Mouret
Trumpet Voluntary, Clarke

Fresh Classical:

Processional

Finale Water Music, Handel
Spring, Mvt 1 from Four Seasons, Vivaldi
Air from Water Music, Handel

Unity Candle

Claire de Lune, Debussy

Recessional

Sonata in C Major K. 545, Mozart
Hornpipe from Water Music, Handel
Brandenburg Concerto No. 3, Mvt 1, J.S. Bach

Sacred: (Favorite hymns may be substituted under any of the following categories.)

Processional

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, J.S. Bach

Hymne, Vangelis

Sheep May Safely Graze, J.S. Bach

Unity Candle / Communion

The Lord's Prayer, Warner

Ave Maria, Schubert

Recessional

Ode to Joy, Beethoven

He Shall Feed His Flock, Handel

Trumpet tune, Purcell

Jazzy

Processional

What a Wonderful World

Misty

The Way You Look Tonight

Unity Candle

At Last

Recessional

It Had to Be You

Fly Me to the Moon

Our Love Is Here To Stay

Folk

Processional

The Gift of Love, Folk Tune
Reminiscent Joy, O'Neill Brothers
Ash Grove, Traditional

Unity Candle

An Irish Blessing, Traditional Gaelic Blessing

Recessional

Morning Has Broken, Traditional
An Irish Wish, O'Neill Brothers
Lord of the Dance, Traditional

Pop/Contemporary

Processional

Fire of Love, O'Neill Brothers
Forrest Gump, Alan Silverstri
Imagine, John Lennon

Unity Candle

I Will Be Here, Steven Curtis Chapmin

Recessional

Seasons of Love from Rent, Jonathan Larson
Kiss the Girl, Alan Menken
Wind Dancer, O'Neill Brothers
1,2,3,4, Plain White T's

Now that you have more clarity with your pieces, it is time to learn **How to Hire Professionals.**



Chapter 6 - How To Hire Professionals

At this point in the process you have identified your style, instrumentation and song list. All you need now is to hire musicians to complete the process.

- **Where to find musicians:**

Ask venue hosts, wedding coordinators, florists, cake decorators etc. Professionals who work in the same field such as weddings often know one another or can refer someone. Some professional affiliations such as orchestras and other performing groups also provide information. You can also inquire through friends, browse wedding websites for a local section or search online for your desired instrumentation and city. Avoid Craigslist!

- **Pricing considerations:**

Fees can vary by location, but start around \$125 per person for the ceremony. A good indicator for price is through browsing websites for your area and/or just asking around. Keep in mind a lower price often means more mistakes, less experience. Professionals will charge for their years of experience & they will also play your wedding music with finesse.

- **When Inquiring, Be Specific:**

Provide date, time, venue location, city, and instrumentation (if you know it).

Ask if they are available for your date & time and what their fee is.

- **Questions to ask:**

If you do not have a personal recommendation from someone and are hiring musicians without knowing their background you can ask:

- Do you play weddings regularly?
- Do you have any recordings or upcoming live performances I can attend?
- What time do you typically arrive for weddings? This one can be a telltale sign of how smoothly the event will go. Professional musicians will arrive with approximately 15 minutes of set up time and will be clear about their arrival time. For example, if your wedding is 4pm expect the musicians to arrive no later than 3:30. Punctuality is important. If they are setting up any larger instruments or sound equipment, expect an even earlier arrival.

- **FAQ's from brides:**

- **Do musicians attend the rehearsal?**

No. Professional musicians do this for a living and have played many weddings. They know what to expect and use their experience to ensure your music goes smoothly. If you must have the professional musicians at a rehearsal for a specific reason, definitely pay them accordingly.

- **Can my friend sing with the musicians?**

It depends. Be sure of their comfort level and experience first. If the friend or family member is going to be nervous (or doesn't read music) it can be a bad idea. If they have had experience and are comfortable, then talk with your musicians about the possibility.

- **How do I tell a friend/family member that I have decided to hire professional musicians instead of them?**

Let them know you that you want them to enjoy the wedding and not to be nervous about performing.

While music is very important for your wedding day, be sure to **Avoid Becoming a "Bridezilla"** by reading in the next chapter!



Chapter 7 - Avoid Becoming A 'Bridezilla'

The most important thing to keep in mind is that professional musicians have played many, many weddings and they know the drill. You can keep it simple by providing them with the needed details and then relax knowing they have it covered.

Here is a list of 7 things not to say or do:

1) “Wow! That is expensive!”

This will definitely get you off on the wrong foot. The musicians are providing you with a quote that is reflective of how they value their time and experience. Also depending on the instrument, set up time can vary. For example, it takes more time for a drummer to set up than a flutist. If they are out of your budget simply say, “Thank you for your time, this isn’t a good match for my budget.” Do not negotiate with professional musicians or ask for a discount; and definitely do not mention to them how expensive it is after you hire them!

2) “Can you play a little bit longer?” (asked at the ceremony or reception)

This happens way too often! It is kind of like your boss asking you to stay after 5pm at 4:59. Often at weddings people really enjoy the music and want more. What you can do is set up a plan ahead of time with the musicians. Ask, “How do you handle overtime?” Your musicians will definitely appreciate this consideration. They will provide you with a plan regarding extra payment and when to let them know if you need more music.

3) “I just really want this song anyway.”

Listen to the musicians about the music and or arrangements and trust their judgment. A great example is Bitter Sweet Symphony by The Verve. Yes there is a violin in it, but it will not sound good with just violin. It is the make-up of all of the different instruments that make the piece sound great. If you really love a piece and the musicians say it will not sound the best, be open to possibilities and/or consider changing your instrumentation or simply have it played at your reception.

4) Micro-managing.

Don't dictate what key something has to be in, a specific order of pieces for the prelude, tempos etc. unless it is pertinent. You wouldn't sit behind an electrician and give them instructions of how to do their job, so don't do it with musicians either. Provide your wedding music selections and all the information the musicians will need and then relax & enjoy.

5) “I'll call you with my selections.”

Don't rely only on phone calls, use e-mail for clarification. If music is something that is not familiar to you, it is easy to misinterpret something. Also, you don't want to create miscommunication by saying one thing and then changing your mind without being clear in writing.

6) “Can you ____ tomorrow?” (i.e. last minute changes)

If you need to make a last minute change, offer to pay for changing the plans.

7) Tout Musical Talents.

Thinking you 'know' music is very different from being a professional musician who has spent years in the field of music practicing. You don't need to 'impress' them with your musical knowledge or by telling them about someone you know who plays music.

In summary, sometimes it is easy to get carried away in the whirl of the wedding and get nervous about the music, don't fret. Just talk with your musicians, they are there to make your day great. In the next chapter you will **Learn How to Make Your Musicians Love You!**



Chapter 8 - How To Make Your Musicians Love You!

It goes without mentioning that your wedding day will one of the most important days in your life, but it can be helpful to remember that when musicians perform at your wedding they are going to work. It's their job to come and make the soundtrack to your wedding perfect. The reason why professional musicians can just walk in and play beautifully is because performing is their job, it is what they do all the time to make their living.

Professional wedding musicians often play weddings every weekend and each wedding has it's own unique twists and turns. It doesn't take much to set yourself apart from the other weddings and make your musicians look forward to your wedding day with excitement. When your musicians are happy, they will spread the good vibes to all your guests through their music. Here is a list of some easy things to do to ensure your musicians show up on time and take care of business without you having to give them a second thought.

- **Good Communication**

Generally speaking, good communication is key to making sure there is no confusion on the day of your wedding. Make sure that before the wedding day the musicians know what time to start, location, which door to load in the equipment, where to set up and any other special instructions. E-mail is a perfect written record to ensure clarity. Many musicians will also have contracts for this purpose. Also, have a designated person greet the musicians when they arrive to be sure there is no confusion with the set-up details.

- **Chairs & Equipment**

Ask your musicians if they will require chairs, stands, extension cords or any other general items. Almost always the answer will be no, since professional musicians usually have everything they need when they arrive. However, just by asking these questions it shows that you care and it goes a long way to build a good relationship with your musicians.

- **Power Outlets**

Ask your musicians if they will be requiring electrical power. It is helpful to know how many outlets and how close the power will be to the performance area.

- **Enough Space**

If possible, allow enough space for the musicians to set up. If you know that the space will be extremely limited, it is great to let the musicians know this ahead of time. This can actually change what type of equipment they will bring along.

- **Food**

If your musicians are performing during the dinner/reception (and your budget allows) offer a meal for your musicians when they are finished playing. This is probably the #1 most appreciated benefit you can offer your musicians.

- **Payments**

Regardless of the payment policies of the musicians that you hire, plan to pay them before the day of the wedding. This solves several problems:

1. You don't have to track them down at the end of a busy day and write a check.
2. You are much more likely to have happy musicians that show up early.

When you offer to pay early you will stand out from the rest of the weddings. You have to pay your musicians anyway, so you might as well take care of business early.

- **Offer a “Save the Date Fee”**

Even if the musicians don't ask for it, offer to pay a deposit or “save the date” fee ahead of time.

- **Outdoor Weddings**

If your wedding is outside, provide a rain location for your musicians so their instruments are not damaged. In addition, if possible, provide a spot that is shaded. Instruments can easily go out of tune when in the hot sun.

- **Wedding Party Size & Bride Entrance Information**

Let them know the number of people in the wedding party and if they should begin the bridal entrance song right after the flower girl or only when they see the bride.

- **Tell Them ‘Thank You’**

This one may seem obvious, but at the end of a busy day of celebration it's easy to forget the musicians in the corner as they are packing up their instruments. Simply saying ‘thank you’ lets the musicians know that you didn't forget they were there and that you appreciated their contribution to your wedding day. Since you will most likely be busy greeting guests, you can have your wedding hosts say thank you to the musicians.



Chapter 9 - Closing Thoughts

The music on your wedding day will create an atmosphere that people will talk about for weeks, months and even years to come. While they may not remember exactly what your table decorations were, they will remember how they felt or the vibe of the day. You can smile knowing your music helped to establish and create that feeling!

I am thankful to have had the opportunity to make your wedding music journey simple and fun. Be sure to fill out the wedding music made simple form at the end of this book to have a record of your musical selections.

To a wonderful, joyous day!

Sincerely,



Resources

Check the appropriate boxes below. If you wish to have your musicians decide a song for you, let them know. Then, hand this checklist to your musicians for an easy, simple process.

Wedding Style:

- Traditional / Classic
- Fresh
- Sacred
- Jazzy
- Folk / Pop

Wedding Selections:

- Prelude
- Lighting of Candles
- Grandparent Seating
- Parent Seating
- Wedding Party Entrance
- Bride Entrance
- Unity Candle
- Communion
- Other Ceremony Music
- Recessional
- Postlude

Song Name:

Use This Page For Extra Notes & Ideas: