Suggestions for music and liturgical song

Music helps to beautify the Liturgy and helps it breathe. It gives space and dimension to the worship, and it helps people's participation.

The music chosen must always be appropriate to the particular part of the Liturgy that it serves. For example if there is a Communion Song it should be focussing us on the Eucharist, and on our sharing in Communion: it would not be the appropriate time for, example a hymn to Our Lady, for then the subject of the song would draw us away from the liturgical action which the song accompanies.

The songs of the Liturgy are principally the song of the congregation. It does not serve the nature of the LIturgy for the congregation's song to be entrusted to a soloist or a choir. Soloists and choirs have their place, and their role is usually best fulfilled by supplementing and assisting the song of the congregation.

That said there are times in the Liturgy where a soloist or choir might sing apart from the congregation (though always a song that fits the liturgy) - for example during the distribution of Holy Communion, or as a song of thanksgiving after Communion, or after the Liturgy during the signing of the Register.

Congregations will vary greatly in their readiness to sing. If you are fortunate to have the service of a skilled cantor they can make a great difference, encouraging the congregation to sing better than maybe it thought it could.

If you recognise that your guests are unlikely to sing – perhaps because they are not familiar with a suitable repertoire of songs – then some of the songs of the Liturgy can be said (e.g. the Gloria or the Sanctus) and others replaced by instrumental music, (e.g. the Entrance Chant, or the Communion Song)

Entrance

Sometimes the Entrance Chant is replaced by instrumental music of an appropriate character. This may be particularly appropriate at a Nuptial Mass if the congregation is not familiar with the Church's musical repertoire, and mindful of the requirement also to sing/say the *Gloria*.

- *Royal Fanfares and Interludes*. Arthur Bliss
- *Prelude from the Te Deum*. M-A. Charpentier
- *The Prince of Denmark's March: 'Trumpet Voluntary'*. Jeremiah Clarke -
- *La Rejouissance* from '*Music for the Royal Fireworks*'. George Frederick Handel
- *Trumpet Tune in D*. Henry Purcell
- *Canon in D* - Johann Pachelbel.
- *Chorale-Fanfare* from *Third Symphony.* C. Saint-Saëns
- *Bridal March* from *Lohengrin*: 'Here comes the bride'. Richard Wagner

Hymns

- *A new commandment*
- *Amazing grace.* John Newton.
- *Come down, O love Divine.*
- *Dear Lord and Father of mankind.* J.G. Whittier.
- *Guide me, O thou great Redeemer.* W. Williams.
- *Immortal, invisible, God only wise.* W Chalmers Smith.
- *Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us.* Patrick Appleford.
- *Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy.* Jan Struther.
- *Love Divine, all loves excelling.* Charles Wesley.
- *Make me a channel of your peace.* Sebastian Temple.
- *Morning has broken* . Eleanor Farjeon.
- *Now thank we all our God* . Martin Rinkart.
- *Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven* H. F. Lyte.
- *Seek ye first the kingdom of God.* Karen Lafferty.
- *Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord.* Timothy Dudley-Smith.
- *The Servant Song (Will you let me be your servant...).* Richard Gillard.
- *The King of love my shepherd is.* H.W. Baker.

Communion Songs

- *Alleluia, sing to Jesus*, W. Chatterton Dix
- *Bread for the world*. Bernadette Farrell
- *Christ be beside me*. James Quinn, SJ
- *Christ be near at either hand*. J Fennelly
- *Eat this bread*... Jacques Berthier
- *I am the Bread of Life*. Suzanne Toolan, RSM
- *I receive the living God*. Bernard Geoffrey.
- *Let all mortal flesh keep silence*.
- *Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us*. Patrick Appleford.
- *Now in this banquet*. Marty Haugen.
- *O thou, who at thy Eucharist didst pray.*
- *One bread, one body*. John B. Foley, SJ
- *Soul of my Saviour.*
- *Taste and See*. Stephen Dean
- *This is my body*. Jimmy Owens and Damian Lundy
- *We hold the death of the Lord deep in our hearts.* David Haas

Music for the end of the Liturgy

- *Chorale Prelude 'In dir ist Freude'* BWV 615 J. S. Bach
- *Grand choeur triomphale in A Op.47 No.2*. A. Guilmant
- *Wedding March* from *A Midsummer Night's Dream.* F. Mendelssohn
- *Nun Danket alle Gott: Marche triomphale* - S. Karg-Elert
- *Toccata* from *Symphonie N°5.* C-M. Widor
- *Jesu, joy of man's desiring.* J. S. Bach

Recordings of most of these musical items can be found on-line, for example on YouTube.

If a wedding is taking place in one of the principal liturgical season then often songs suited to that season will also be suited for a wedding at that time, for example some of the Easter or Christmas hymns.

Additional choices, assistance and guidance particularly with regard to the singing of the responsorial Psalm, Gospel Acclamation, and Eucharistic Acclamations can be provided by the musicians and priest who will be taken part in your wedding.