

Music for the Wedding Service

MUSICIANS

The Parish Organist

The Organist for weddings at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church is Mr. Toney Yancey (274-3822, toneyyancey@triad.rr.com.) In the event he cannot play for your service, he will supply names of several individuals as possible substitutes. Please keep in mind that the Rector, under Canon Law, is in charge of music as well as other aspects of your marriage service. He has delegated to the wedding organist the responsibility and authority concerning music to be performed at your wedding. Any music to be performed by other than the wedding organist must be approved by Mr. Yancey or the Rector, regardless of who is the officiating clergy.

Guest Organist

If the regular organist is available but you wish to have a guest organist, this may be arranged with the approval of the regular organist. The guest organist needs to know that the instrument in the church has five manual divisions, three manuals plus pedal.

Musicians for Instruments Other than Organ

The use of instruments such as trumpet, flute, strings, harp and guitar is encouraged. Toney Yancey can assist you in arranging for additional musicians. Musical offerings must be approved by either the regular organist or the Rector.

Vocal Soloists and Ensembles

Vocal soloists and/or ensembles may be used as part of the Prelude music under these conditions:

- Music performed is in keeping with the festival, worship-oriented nature of the entire service. Compositions of a purely sentimental nature and/or where “love” is not the Covenant Love of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony are not acceptable. Again, the regular organist or the Rector must approve the music performed.
- No settings of the Lord’s Prayer or the “Song of Ruth” may be used. The Lord’s Prayer is reserved to be said by the congregation. Also unacceptable are compositions where “religious” words have been added to operatic or stage music. Generally acceptable are music and/or words from the Bible (particularly

the New Testament), the Prayer Book or the Hymnal 1982. Reasonable variations and paraphrase are acceptable.

- All vocal music shall be a part of the Prelude, unless there is to be a Eucharist.

MUSIC SEGMENTS

Prelude

The purpose of the Prelude is to set the festival mood of the occasion. As a rule, music for the Prelude is the same used at any other festival service. Pieces should be short; music of large-scale “recital” nature is not acceptable. The organist will offer a variety of appropriate pieces for your consideration. Orchestral reductions in good taste may be used. Special music for the seating of the mothers is permitted but not encouraged, because it presents problems of timing to the musician(s) and to the Wedding Guild assistant who will assist from the narthex.

Processional

The “Bridal March” by Wagner is not used at Holy Trinity. The organist will offer suggestions as to appropriate processionals. Trumpet is especially attractive at the time of the Processional.

At the End of the Betrothal Vows

After the bride’s father has given her hand to the officiating clergy, after the readings and a homily, a hymn or short piece of music, called “travel music,” may be played to accompany the movement of the bridal party to the altar rail.

Congregational Hymns

There are several places in the marriage service where a hymn may be sung. If a hymn is desired, its place in the service should be discussed with the officiating clergy. The organist will assist you in choosing the hymn and number of verses to be sung. If programs are used for the wedding ceremony, printing the words to the hymns being sung encourages congregational participation.

The Offertory

If there is to be a Eucharist, a very short composition may be either sung or played.

During the Communion

If there is a Eucharist, a very short composition may be either sung or played while the Communion is received and while the Priest is performing the cleansing of the Eucharistic vessels.

Recessional

The “Wedding March” by Mendelssohn is not used at Holy Trinity. The organist will offer several selections from which you may choose.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- At your request, instrumentalists and/or vocalists can be arranged for you by the organist.
- All music fees are due and payable at the rehearsal.
- The wedding CD, available through the office of Holy Trinity, has numerous selections suitable for a wedding ceremony and will make the process of selecting music for your wedding easier.