

WEDDING MUSIC AT ST. ANNE'S

Any worship service of the Church is an offering of our selves and our relationships to God. THE CELEBRATION AND BLESSING OF MARRIAGE is no less a service of worship than any that we experience on a Sunday morning. It is a sacramental rite of the Church, an action taken on behalf of its members, asking God to bless "...the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony."

In this context of worship, music, to be appropriate, is offered to God and should center our thoughts on Him. According to *The Book of Common Prayer*, the words of music sung in the church are to be from those hymns authorized by the Church, from Holy Scripture, the *Book of Common Prayer*, or from texts congruent with them. There are many familiar pieces of wedding music that are fine in the right settings, such as the reception; however, secular (non-sacred) music is inappropriate for the liturgy because it is written for our own pleasure and centers our thoughts on ourselves.

The Resonator, published by the Maryland Diocesan Committee on Church Music offers this thought: "It is our hope that the marriage service, and especially the music used in that service, will celebrate human love in and through the context of God's love known in Christ. This is not intended to underplay the importance of man's love for a woman, and hers for him, but is, rather, intended to instill in that love the essence of that highest love which man can know: the love of God." (Vol. IV, No. 1). It is in this spirit that the following examples of appropriate wedding music are suggested:

Processionals and Recessionals

The following suggested selections are most suitable for the wedding *Processional* (walk down the aisle) and *Recessional* (walking out at the end of the ceremony). Following the traditions of the Episcopal Church and accepted standards of liturgical music, St. Anne's recommends that there be one selection only for the bridal procession. Other selections may be possible after consulting with the organist.

Processionals

Canon in D – Pachelbel
Trumpet Voluntary – Jeremiah Clark
Trumpet Tune – Henry Purcell
Trumpet Voluntary – John Stanley
Rondeau in D Major - Mouret
St. Antoni Chorale – Haydn
Te Deum Prelude – Charpentier
Organ Symph #3: Andante – Saint-Seans
Jupiter Theme from *The Planets* - Holst

Recessionals

Allegro Maestoso (Water Music) – Handel
The Rejoicing (Royal Fireworks) – Handel
Psalm XIX – Marcello
Now Thank We All Our God – Karg-Elert
Ode to Joy – Beethoven
In Thee is Gladness – J.S. Bach
Toccata in G Major – Dubois
Toccata in F Major – Widor
(large weddings only)