

Jessica Platt Presents:

*Your Wedding Day
Music & Ceremony
Planning Guide*

A Free Resource for Engaged Couples



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WELCOME

Congratulations on your engagement!

Planning your big day is exciting—and I'm here to help make it magical. I've played for countless weddings across Missouri and beyond, and I've seen how the right music can transform a moment. This guide will walk you through the essentials: timeline, music selections, ceremony structure, and tips for a smooth, unforgettable celebration.

TIMELINE TO CONSIDER

6–12 Months Before

- Book your venue and key vendors (music, officiant, photographer)
- Consider your ceremony style (traditional, modern, religious, non-denominational)
- Start thinking about music you love

3–6 Months Before

- Finalize your ceremony structure and readings
- Meet with your musician(s) to select your songs
- Choose whether you want live music for the ceremony, cocktail hour, and/or reception

1–2 Months Before

- Share final details with vendors (venue access, timeline, cues)
- Provide a copy of your ceremony program
- Relax—you're nearly there!

MUSIC MOMENTS IN A CEREMONY

1. **Prelude** (10–20 mins as guests arrive)

Sets the mood

Suggestions:

- “Air on the G String” – J.S. Bach
- “A Thousand Years” – Christina Perri
- “Can't Help Falling in Love” – Elvis Presley

2. **Processional** (entrance of the wedding party & bride)

Suggestions:

- “Canon in D” – Pachelbel
- “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” – Israel Kamakawiwo'ole
- “Marry Me” – Train

3. **Ceremony Music** (optional: during candle lighting, readings, etc.)

Suggestions:

- “Ave Maria” – Schubert or Bach/Gounod
- Instrumental of your favorite love song

4. **Recessional** (celebratory exit)

Suggestions:

- “Spring” from *The Four Seasons* – Vivaldi
- “Signed, Sealed, Delivered” – Stevie Wonder
- “You Are the Best Thing” – Ray LaMontagne

5. **Postlude** (as guests exit)

Keep the mood joyful and light.

SAMPLE CEREMONY PROGRAM

The Wedding of Emily Johnson & Mark Taylor

Saturday, June 1st, 2025

Webster House Gardens | St. Louis, MO

Prelude

Performed by Jessica Platt, violin

- “Clair de Lune” – Debussy
- “The Swan” – Saint-Saëns

Processional

- Wedding Party: “Canon in D” – Pachelbel
- Bride: “A Thousand Years” – Perri

Ceremony

- Reading by Maid of Honor
- Unity Candle: “Ave Maria” – Bach/Gounod

Recessional

- “Spring” – Vivaldi

Postlude & Guest Dismissal Music

- “Here Comes the Sun” – The Beatles
 - “This Will Be (An Everlasting Love)” – Natalie Cole
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PRO TIPS FOR A SMOOTH DAY

- **Have a point person** (wedding coordinator, planner, or friend) to cue musicians.
- **Send your musician the final schedule** and contact info for venue staff.
- **Outdoor ceremony?** Check for power outlets, shade, and weather plans.
- **Love a pop song?** Many modern songs can be arranged beautifully for violin!

LET'S PLAN TOGETHER

Whether you already know the songs you want or need a little guidance, I'd love to help. I offer a curated list of timeless classics, modern favorites, and custom arrangements to make your ceremony feel *uniquely yours*.

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MORE SAMPLE CEREMONY PROGRAMS FOR SPECIFIC ENSEMBLES

Solo Violin

Simple, heartfelt, and expressive — perfect for outdoor ceremonies, elopements, or minimalistic vibes

Prelude

- “Ashokan Farewell” – Jay Ungar
- “Edelweiss” – Rodgers & Hammerstein
- “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” – Traditional
- “Lover’s Waltz” – Ungar & Mason
- “Arioso” – J.S. Bach

Processional

- “Canon in D” – Pachelbel
- “Sheep May Safely Graze” – Bach
- “Simple Gifts” – Shaker Hymn
- “A Thousand Years” – Christina Perri (unaccompanied)
- “Bridal Chorus” – Wagner (for traditional weddings)

Ceremony Interlude

- “Ave Maria” – Schubert (solo adaptation)
- “Amazing Grace” – Traditional
- “Be Thou My Vision” – Irish Traditional
- “You Say” – Lauren Daigle (melodic solo)

Recessional

- “Hornpipe” from *Water Music* – Handel
- “Ode to Joy” – Beethoven
- “La Rejouissance” – Handel
- “Spring” from *The Four Seasons* – Vivaldi

Postlude

- “Hymne” – Vangelis

- “Annie’s Song” – John Denver
 - “My Heart Will Go On” – Titanic Theme
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Solo Violin with Background Tracks

The drama and fullness of a full ensemble, with the flexibility and portability of a soloist — ideal for modern, cinematic, or elegant weddings

Prelude

- “Shallow” – Lady Gaga & Bradley Cooper (cinematic violin version)
- “River Flows in You” – Yiruma (backing piano)
- “La Vie en Rose” – Edith Piaf (with jazz track)
- “Kiss the Rain” – Yiruma
- “Clair de Lune” – Debussy (arranged with piano backing)

Processional

- “Can’t Help Falling in Love” – Elvis (Bridgerton-style track)
- “Turning Page” – Sleeping at Last
- “Perfect” – Ed Sheeran
- “A Thousand Years” – Christina Perri (with lush piano & string background)
- “Halo” – Beyoncé (slow instrumental build)

Ceremony Interlude

- “The Blessing” – Kari Jobe (ambient background)
- “You Raise Me Up” – Josh Groban
- “Rewrite the Stars” – *The Greatest Showman*
- “How Great Thou Art” – Contemporary arrangement

Recessional

- “This Will Be (An Everlasting Love)” – Natalie Cole
- “I’m Yours” – Jason Mraz
- “Signed, Sealed, Delivered” – Stevie Wonder
- “Bittersweet Symphony” – The Verve
- “You Make My Dreams” – Hall & Oates

Postlude

- “Everything” – Michael Bublé
- “Isn’t She Lovely” – Stevie Wonder
- “Sweet Child O’ Mine” – Vitamin String Quartet-style backing
- “Firework” – Katy Perry (instrumental pop version)

Violin & Cello Duo

Elegant, intimate, warm

Prelude

- “Meditation” from *Thaïs* – Massenet
- “The Swan” – Saint-Saëns
- “Can’t Help Falling in Love” – Elvis Presley
- “La Vie en Rose” – Edith Piaf
- “Turning Page” – Sleeping at Last

Processional

- “Canon in D” – Pachelbel
- “A Thousand Years” – Christina Perri
- “All of Me” – John Legend
- “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” – Israel Kamakawiwo’ole

Ceremony Interlude

- “Ave Maria” – Bach/Gounod or Schubert
- “Hallelujah” – Leonard Cohen (instrumental)
- “Oceans” – Hillsong United

Recessional

- “Viva La Vida” – Coldplay
- “You Are the Best Thing” – Ray LaMontagne
- “Here Comes the Sun” – The Beatles
- “Signed, Sealed, Delivered” – Stevie Wonder

Postlude

- “What a Wonderful World” – Louis Armstrong
 - “This Will Be (An Everlasting Love)” – Natalie Cole
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String Quartet

Rich, full, classical or cinematic – great for large or outdoor weddings

Prelude

- “Air on the G String” – Bach
- “Clair de Lune” – Debussy
- “Concerning Hobbits” – Howard Shore (*LOTR*)
- “A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes” – Disney
- “Your Song” – Elton John

Processional

- “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” – Bach
- “Marry Me” – Train
- “Can’t Help Falling in Love” – Elvis (in *Bridgerton* style)
- “River Flows in You” – Yiruma (quartet arrangement)

Ceremony Interlude

- “The Prayer” – Celine Dion & Andrea Bocelli
- “Perfect” – Ed Sheeran
- “The Blessing” – Kari Jobe (instrumental)

Recessional

- “Best Day of My Life” – American Authors
- “This Will Be” – Natalie Cole
- “I’m Yours” – Jason Mraz
- “Bittersweet Symphony” – The Verve

Postlude

- “Sweet Child O’ Mine” – Guns N’ Roses (Vitamin String Quartet style)
 - “Happy” – Pharrell Williams
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Violin & Piano Duo

Versatile and expressive — classical elegance with modern possibilities

Prelude

- “Nocturne in E-flat” – Chopin
- “Moon River” – Mancini
- “Fields of Gold” – Sting
- “Shallow” – Lady Gaga & Bradley Cooper
- “Make You Feel My Love” – Adele/Bob Dylan

Processional

- “Canon in D” – Pachelbel
- “All of Me” – John Legend
- “Thinking Out Loud” – Ed Sheeran
- “Bridal Chorus” – Wagner (optional for traditional)

Ceremony Interlude

- “River Flows in You” – Yiruma
- “You Raise Me Up” – Josh Groban
- “Reverie” – Debussy

Recessional

- “Ode to Joy” – Beethoven
- “On Top of the World” – Imagine Dragons
- “You Make My Dreams” – Hall & Oates
- “Forever” – Chris Brown

Postlude

- “Everything” – Michael Bublé
- “Isn’t She Lovely” – Stevie Wonder
- “Somewhere Only We Know” – Keane