



Mailing Address:  
Carter Productions  
1116 Lake Lansing Rd.  
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Phone: 517.243.5172  
Web: [www.carter-productions.com](http://www.carter-productions.com)  
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## **Traditional Wedding Ceremony Order of Events**

### **Ceremony Timeline:**

#### ***1. Wedding Ushers***

The ushers are the first to arrive in the sanctuary. They stand outside the sanctuary, greeting and seating guests on either the Bride's or Groom's side. Groomsmen may double as ushers up-until the ceremony starts.

#### ***2. Groom & Best Man***

The groom and best man are the next to arrive. The best man Groom and Minister or Officiant enter the church or ceremony location from the side door and take their places, waiting for the Bride to arrive.

#### ***3. Prelude Music***

Musicians or Prerecorded music is played for prelude, setting the mood for arriving family and guests.

#### ***4. Wedding Seating Arrangements***

As guests arrive they are seated to the left of the church or ceremony location (bride friends and family); to the right of the church or ceremony location (groom's family and friends) leaving the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> pews or chairs vacant.

#### ***5. Parents & Close Family***

Parents and close family of the Bride and groom arrive and are seated. Close family are seated at the 2<sup>nd</sup> pew or chairs. Parents are seated at the 1st pew or chairs. The Brides father waits at the entrance of the church or ceremony location.

#### ***6. The Bride's Arrival***

The last to arrive is the Bride and her father or Escort and her attendants. They pause in the foyer with one of the wedding ushers as the Bridesmaids help with the Bride's hair, veil and train. Just before she enters the church the Bride's face may be covered by her veil.



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## Processional:

### *7. Processional Music*

A signal is given to the Musicians/sound technician that the Bride is ready. The processional music begins. After the processional music begins, any late arriving guests are detained in the back by one of the wedding ushers and seated. After the processional is complete.

### *8. Junior Wedding Attendants*

The flower girls and page boy or ring bearer enter the church or ceremony location and walk down the aisle.

### *9. Adult Wedding Attendants*

Bridesmaids and groomsmen are next to walk down the aisle, arm in arm, followed by the Maid of honor. They take up their positions at the front of the ceremony - before the Bride enters the church with her father or Escort.

### *10. The Bride's Mother*

As the Bridal March begins, the Bride's Mother stands and turns to face the back of the church. The wedding guests will stand upon seeing the Bride's Mother stand.

### *11. The Bride & Her Father or Escort*

The Bride enters the church, walking down the aisle on her father's right arm.

### *12. Bride's Father*

Before the Bride reaches the chancel steps, the father or Escort takes his daughter's hand and places it in the groom's right hand. He takes his seat next to his wife or mother of the bride.

### *13. Bride & Groom*

The Bride is greeted by the groom. She hands her bridal bouquet to the matron of honor, who can also help her lift back her bridal veil. The Bride may prefer the veil be left in place until the minister or officiant pronounces them husband and wife, prior to the kiss.



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## **Ceremony Service:**

### ***14. The Service Begins***

The minister or officiant says a few introductory words to the congregation and the marriage ceremony begins.

### ***15. Wedding Vows***

The couple then takes their wedding vows in turn, repeating the words after the minister or officiant and answer, 'I will'.

### ***16. Ring Exchange***

The best man gives both rings to the minister or officiant to be blessed. The Bride's ring is then given to the groom, who places it on the third finger of her left hand and repeats the words as indicated by the minister or officiant. The Bride then repeats the same words as she places the groom's ring on his finger.

### ***17. Husband & Wife***

The minister or officiant will speak a few words to declare that the couple is now husband and wife: the Bride and groom kiss.

### ***18. Signing the Register***

The final stage is to sign the register. This usually takes place with the Bride and groom, their parents, the best man, matron of honor and their attendants present. A register copy is usually given to the Bride by the minister or officiant for her to keep.

## **Recessional:**

### ***19. Leaving the Church***

When the signing of the register has finished, the bridal party leaves the church or ceremony location. The Bride and groom lead the way, while the Musicians/sound technician plays the recessional music. Next to leave, are the best man and matron of honor, followed by the other junior and adult attendants, the Bride and groom's parents. The congregation is dismissed row by row by the wedding ushers, beginning with the first row of guests.

### ***20. The Receiving Line***

You may choose to have a receiving line after the wedding ceremony. If not, your guests and Friends can mingle after the ceremony, leaving a receiving line at the reception instead.



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## Proper Placement of Music for Your Wedding Ceremony

When planning wedding ceremony music, one of the most common questions wedding planners receive is, "How many songs do I need and where should they go?" The answer to that question varies, simply because there is no wrong way to go. There are some guidelines to follow when placing music within a wedding ceremony. One sample program is included below.

### Wedding Ceremony Program

**Prelude Music** - The music played during guest and family arrival.

**Processional Music** - Will announce the Brides arrival. All in attendance will stand as you make your way toward the center point.

**Poetry/Scripture Readings Music** - If you choose to include this optional segment, you might consider having a soft instrumentalist playing in the background.

**Unity Candle Music** - A popular practice in a wedding ceremony is to light a unity candle. The bride's parents and the groom's parents each light separate candles. Then the bride takes one candle, the groom takes the other and they simultaneously light a new candle symbolizing the union of the two families.

**Vows** - There are several places within the exchanging of vows where a song could be played. Before the vows, after the vows or before the rings are all practical and acceptable places for music.

**Recessional** - The part of the wedding ceremony you've been waiting for! Congratulations! You're husband and wife. Of course, you'll need music to leave by. The same principles apply to the recessional as did to the processional. All in attendance will stand as you make your way out of the gathering place.



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***Ceremony Music Play List***

**Time Guest Will Arrive:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ceremony Start Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

***Prelude Music During Guest Arrival***

Complete Variety of top chosen ceremony music, let DJ select: Yes or No

Artist / Title

Artist / Title

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***Processional Music***

Would you like traditional music played for the Wedding Party Arrival? Yes or No (If you select no, fill in below the song you would like played)

Wedding Party Song: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please Include Artist and Title of the song)

Would you like traditional Here Comes the Bride music played for Bride Arrival? Yes or No (If you select no, fill in below the song you would like played)

Bride Arrival: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please Include Artist and Title of the song)

***Poetry/Scripture Readings Music***

Will a song be played during Poetry/Scripture Readings? Yes or No (If you select yes, fill in below the song you would like played)

Poetry/Scripture Music: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please Include Artist and Title of the song)



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*Unity Candle Music*

Will a song be played during Unity Candle Music? Yes or No (If you select yes, fill in below the song you would like played)

Poetry/Scripture Music: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please Include Artist and Title of the song)

*Vows Music*

Will a song be played during Vows? Yes or No (If you select yes, fill in below the song you would like played)

Poetry/Scripture Music: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please Include Artist and Title of the song)

*Recessional Music*

Would you like traditional Recessional Music during the exit of Bride & Groom and Wedding Party? Yes or No (If you select no, fill in below the song you would like played)

Poetry/Scripture Music: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please Include Artist and Title of the song)

*Receiving Line Music*

Complete Variety of top chosen ceremony music, let DJ select: Yes or No

Artist / Title

Artist / Title

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**Contact and Church Ceremony Information**

**Client Information**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State / Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip / Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Church / Ceremony Information**

Church / Ceremony Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Cross Streets: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Information: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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