

Planning a wedding can be really stressful. Picking the right vendors, scheduling all the meetings and fittings, deciding the colors and who to invite, it's enough to swear it all off and just elope. However, if even after all of that, you still want to do it, we can help!

Picking your music may seem overwhelming but it doesn't need to be. If you break everything down into sections, it should be a fun and relaxing process. Let's take a look at everything!

Please note, each section only has a few suggestions but you can check out our Spotify playlists for more. Current clients, check out your music request system for even more suggestions!

Your Ceremony – yes, your DJ can help with that.

Prelude Music is the music that is played while your guests start arriving. It should match the atmosphere where the wedding is taking place. The music can have lyrics, it could be the original recording or a unique cover, it can be instrumental covers or it could be a combination of everything. It's your day, don't be bound to tradition, do what you want.

Outdoor Ceremony Artist Suggestions

The Piano Guys
United Guitar Players
Jason Mraz
Colbie Caillat
The Vitamin String Quartet

Beach Ceremony Artist Suggestions

Israel Kamakawiwo'ole
The Ukulele Boys
Kenny Chesney
Bob Marley
Jack Johnson

More Formal Atmosphere Artist and Song Suggestions

Johann Sebastian Bach
Sarabande, BWV 1007
Philip Glass
Felix Mendelssohn
Clair de Lune

As you can see, the options are endless and there really isn't a wrong answer. Don't feel like you have to select all the music for this part. Just give your DJ an idea of what you want and they should be able to achieve the vibe you desire.

Ceremony Music includes your processional and recessional songs as well as any music that you might want played during the ceremony itself.

Processional songs are songs played while the family and bridal party make their way down the aisle. Depending on how long your aisle is and where people are entering from will determine if you should have one song for everyone or a song for each group. Your DJ should be able to help determine what's best.

Processional Song Suggestions

A Thousand Years – The Piano Guys
Canon in D – Pachelbel (and countless others)
Wonderful Tonight – The Vitamin String Quartet
Perfect (wedding version) – Paul Hankinson
Hallelujah (instrumental) – Paula Kiete & Chris Snelling

Bridal March – Don't think that you have to pick Here Comes the Bride by Felix Mendelssohn. If you want to, do it! If you don't, pick something else. If you're on the fence, browse Spotify, they have numerous versions (from harps to steel drums and hardcore metal) pick the one you like.

The **Recessional** song should be upbeat, fun and something you'll always remember. I like to remind my couples, when you hear this song 10 or 15 years down the road, I want you to be instantly taken back to that place, that feeling and I want you to smile.

Recessional Song Suggestions

Bruno Mars – Marry You
Natalie Cole – Everlasting Love
James Brown – I Feel Good
American Authors – Best Day of My Life
Motley Crue – Kickstart My Heart

Your Cocktail & Dinner Music – don't let it be an afterthought

You won't have to spend much time thinking about the cocktail hour music because, after all, you probably won't even be in the same room or area with everyone. You're more than likely off somewhere taking pictures or relaxing. However, think about the vibe you want and relay that to your DJ. Do you want a fun, relaxed vibe or more formal and elegant. Maybe you don't even care and that's ok too. A good professional, experienced DJ will know what to play to keep people engaged.

I do offer a few suggestions. If you want your guests ready to party as soon as you enter, maybe avoid classical music or only instrumentals. These genres tend to put people in a very relaxed frame of mind and they will probably be expecting a more formal affair. If you were thinking about this style, I would suggest mixing it with some crooner style music like Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra & Michael Buble to name a few. Also, if you are planning a Great Gatsby themed cocktail hour, I would suggestion mixing in songs from the group Postmodern Jukebox. It's a fun modern twist on a classic jazzy sound.

Most cocktail hours tend to be upbeat and fun. I like playing a mix of 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's and today's top 40 that most people enjoy but can't really dance too. Dinner music is much the same but a little slower and a little softer at first (it will build as people start finishing up)

Just like with your prelude music, don't stress over selecting every song, just tell your DJ the vibe you want and let them work their magic.

Your Grand Entrance – lets get the party started on the right foot!

When your DJ introduces your bridal party you want to select a song that not only fits your musical tastes but also gets people in the right frame of mind for the event you want. Remember, pick a song that you love and will most likely hear at different times throughout your life. Don't feel like you have to pick the latest song on the radio either, spend some time and really think about what you want to say with your song selection.

Grand Entrance Song Suggestions

T.I. – Bring'em Out
AC/DC - Thunderstruck
Imagine Dragon – On Top of the World
Blue Swede – Hooked on a Feeling
MKTO – Classic
Stevie Wonder & Ariana Grande – Faith

A quick word on themed grand entrances – If your college football team had a song they entered to like Enter Sandman by Metallica for Virginia Tech, make sure your DJ is familiar with it. Send them YouTube clips highlighting the entrance so they know how to properly get the guests energized and ready for it.

Your First Dance – do what you want, do what feels right.

Your **First Dance** can be slow, it can be fast, it can be fun or it can be sweet. Pick a song that you love, that makes you feel something inside, that screams to the world, "yes, this is *their* song!"

First Dance Song Suggestions

Dan & Shay – Speechless
Russell Dickerson – Yours
Brad Paisley – Then (piano mix)
Al Green – Let's Stay Together
Etta James – At Last

Your Formal Dances – share the moment with someone special.

Typical **Formal Dances** include the father daughter dance, the mother son dance and, on occasion, a dance with a step parent, grandparent, brother/sister or an a very special aunt/uncle. Include all the dances that you want or if you don't want to dance, don't include any at all, it's up to you.

Father Daughter Dance Suggestions

Heartland – I Loved Her First
Bob Carlisle – Butterfly Kisses
Fleetwood Mac – Landslide
Tim McGraw – My Little Girl
Paul Simon – Father and Daughter

Step Father Daughter Dance Suggestions

Brad Paisley – Didn't Have To Be
Christina Aguilera – I Turn to You
The Pretenders – I'll Stand By You
Charlie Puth – One Call Away
James Taylor – You've Got a Friend

Mother Son Dance Suggestions

Rascal Flatts – My Wish
Lynyrd Skynyrd (or Shinedown) – Simple Man
Boyz II Men – A Song For Mama
Tim McGraw – Humble and Kind
Reba McEntire – You're Gonna Be

Step Mother Son Dance Suggestions

Lee Ann Womack – I Hope You Dance
Celine Dion – Because You Loved Me
Jim Brickman – Never Alone
Josh Groban – You Raise Me Up
The Beatles – In My Life

Your DJ should be able to help with other formal dance song suggestions depending on your situation. Also, please remember, you don't (and probably won't) dance for the entire song. Most formal dance songs are faded around two and half minutes.

Cut the Cake, Grab the Garter and Toss the Bouquet – lets have some fun

Cake Cutting Song Suggestions

James Taylor – How Sweet It Is
DNCE – Cake by the Ocean
Average White Band – Cut the Cake
The Archies – Sugar, Sugar
Maroon 5 – Sugar

Bouquet Toss Song Suggestions

Beyoncé – Run The World
Gwen Stefani – Hollaback Girl
Kelis – Milkshake
Beastie Boys – Girls
No Doubt – I'm Just a Girl

Garter Toss Song Suggestions

Ginuwine – Pony
Kenny Loggins – Danger Zone
Nelly – Hot in Herre
Warrant – Cherry Pie
MC Hammer – You Can't Touch This

Grand Finale Songs – lets end the night on a epic high note!

The **Grand Finale** song is the song we play when at the very end of the night (before the grand exit). We invite the newlyweds to the center of the dance floor and invite every single person to the dance floor to circle up around our couple. We encourage them to sign along to the song, dance and raise their glasses, we want total audience participation with this one so pick a song everyone knows and loves.

Grand Finale Song Suggestions

Journey – Don't Stop Believing
Frank Sinatra – New York New York
Queen – Bohemian Rhapsody
Neil Diamond – Sweet Caroline
Garth Brooks – Friends in Low Places