

# TIPS FOR SELECTING YOUR WEDDING MUSIC:

After the date has been set, the flowers have been ordered, and the dress has been fitted, the focus of wedding planning turns to the more intricate details of the ceremony and reception -- especially music. But because of the sheer number of songs to choose from, the task of selecting the right wedding music can be overwhelming.

Consult with your spouse-to-be.

You might be surprised at his or her interests or preferences. Your husband-to-be might have his heart set on a particular song, or your wife-to-be might want to include a traditional family favorite.

Look at the big picture.

Determine the best style of music to use based on the overall theme and feel of your wedding ceremony. Is it traditional? Contemporary? Religious? Romantic? Fun? Not all music is the right fit for all types of weddings.

Determine the parts of the ceremony that you'd like to set to music.

You can select as little or as much music as you like for the ceremony, but keep in mind that your guests will be there to celebrate with you, not listen to a concert. Make sure that you select just enough so there are no "bare spots" during which your guests might become fidgety. Potential parts of the ceremony to be set to music may include the prelude, the processional (you may select separate pieces for the wedding party and the bridal entrance), congregational hymns and religious ceremony responses, the lighting of the unity candle, the recessional and the postlude. If you're having trouble narrowing your selections, you can always save some of the songs for the band or DJ to play at the reception rather than trying to cram them all into the ceremony. If you're marrying in a place of worship, remember to get your list of selections approved by the wedding coordinator or celebrant.

Trust your instincts.

Bottom line -- it's your wedding. Don't feel pressured to include a particular song just because Cousin Merle says you should.

A word to the wise:

If your ceremony will take place in a house of worship, be sure to consult with your church or synagogue before deciding about music. They may have rules or restrictions regarding wedding music--and it's best to know before making your choice.