

# Matthias Stegmann

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*To help you in planning the music for your wedding, Secundine Promotions has broken down a wedding into six major parts. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you might have about your big day.*

For the music, most wedding ceremonies have six major parts, each with their own special requirements:

**THE PRELUDE**  
**THE WEDDING PARTY'S PROCESSIONAL**  
**THE BRIDE'S PROCESSIONAL**  
**THE INTERLUDE**  
**THE RECESSIONAL**  
**THE POSTLUDE**

If you do not want to choose individual songs for your ceremony, Matthias will be able to play appropriate songs in the right places. But picking out your own wedding music can be more meaningful and satisfying. The first decision you should make that will guide you in your choices is whether you want your wedding music to be traditional and classic or lesser-known but unique. Matthias has a supply of music from both categories in his repertoire.

**THE PRELUDE:** The purpose of the prelude wedding music is to welcome guests as they are being seated before the wedding ceremony. It also should give a cheerful yet subdued atmosphere, setting the stage for the solemnity of the event. The prelude generally begins 15 to 20 minutes before the ceremony start time, and it often involves quite a few songs. Because of this, it's best to choose the genre of music you want and leave the individual song choices up to the musician.

**THE WEDDING PARTY'S PROCESSIONAL:** The wedding party's processional marks the official beginning of the wedding ceremony. It should have a slow but flowing feel, ushering the beautiful bridesmaids and other members of the wedding party down the aisle. Perhaps the classic example here is Canon in D by Pachelbel, but you should listen to various musical selections to find a song that strikes a chord with you.

**THE BRIDE'S PROCESSIONAL:** The bride's processional can be an incredible moment, as memorable to everyone involved as the vows or any other part of the ceremony. You should choose a very special song here.

**THE INTERLUDE:** The interlude can actually be many different moments in the wedding ceremony, my very loose definition being any time there are no words being spoken for a minute or more. For most wedding ceremonies, the interlude is the unity candle, memorial candle, or rose presentation. These are moments of quiet reflection, and the wedding music you choose should encourage this mood.

**THE RECESSIONAL:** At last, time to celebrate your wedding! The wedding officiant's pronouncement of husband and wife is followed by enthusiastic applause and joyous recessional music as the happy couple leads the way back up the aisle. The song you choose should be bright and upbeat, inviting everyone to celebrate your union.

**THE POSTLUDE:** The postlude to your wedding sets a pleasant atmosphere as guests are leaving. It can last between 10 and 30 minutes, so it's best to treat the postlude like the prelude music and simply give the musicians an idea of what you want. Matthias will play postlude music that is refined but upbeat, adding the finishing touch to your beautiful ceremony.