

Harpist

Sylvia Norris

Thank you for considering my services for your special day. You will find musical samples of my work as a solo harpist, accompanying vocal soloists, as well as flute/saxophone and harp duo's, and flute, cello and harp trio selections on this web site. I hope that they will be helpful to you as you begin the process of selecting your wedding music. Please remember that these selections are just a starting place. They consist of only the first few measures of several very traditional wedding selections. I am happy to learn any special requests that are available in sheet music form and that will sound good on my instrument. Some pieces don't easily lend themselves to the harp and can not therefore be recommended. I do know numerous other appropriate alternatives if you are interested. Please download the Wedding Music Planner sheet to help you make your selections. I require the sheet to be mailed to me with a deposit of \$300.00 dollars for Mackinac Island weddings, and \$200.00 for all other locations. It is not necessary to fill in all the musical selections at the time you secure my services, the specifics can be e mailed to me later, but I do use the Planner as my reference point for your date, time, location and personal contact information.

Let me walk you through the wedding musically. First is the pre-service, or prelude music. This typically begins twenty to thirty minutes before your wedding time. It is not necessary to choose particular prelude pieces unless you wish to. After many years of experience, I have come to prefer a lot of flexibility in the order of the prelude music because the seating of guests can be unpredictable. To make this work, the program can simply read "Harp Prelude", or can include three to five titles but I may not be able to stick to it exactly. This way, I can add pieces if the wedding starts a bit late. The prelude ends with the seating of family members. The seating of the mothers should not occur until all the guests are seated and the bridal party is ready to start. This is my most important cue because after the seating of the mom's, the next piece will be the attendant's processional. The attendants must wait for a few seconds of silence, and a change of music before they begin to process. Of course, this sequence can vary greatly depending upon the formality of the wedding. Should the wedding ceremony start more than a quarter of an hour late, you may run the risk of having an additional charge or not having a full postlude.

Next are the processionals. In terms of music within the service itself, I appreciate having your opinions here, because these pieces will particularly reflect your personal preferences. Many couples choose to have two processional pieces; one for the attendants, and one for the bride. I often add trumpet for the bridal entrance and then again when the ceremony is concluded.

After everyone has come in, it's time for the service music to begin. This can include as many or as few pieces as you would like. The unity candle and communion would be two obvious places to include music. Many churches have restrictions about secular music in the worship service, therefore it is helpful to check with them before choosing. At the end of the demo selections, I've included three possibilities. I know numerous Broadway, pop, country, movie themes, etc.

As the service ends, you will want to have a recessional piece. Typically this would be a bright, up tempo selection. Please indicate how the ceremony will end (with a kiss, an introduction, or in some other fashion), and whether or not you will be excusing the guests in any special manner. This will help me to plan the postlude music accordingly. Usually for the postlude, I play ten to fifteen minutes of very upbeat classical selections.

I always ask to be paid preferably two weeks before, but often people forget to do that. Failure to pay me in full by the conclusion of my services will result in a late charge of 15%. Also, once you are married, you will want to focus on other things, not this detail. Thank you for your understanding.

Some couples wish to use more than one musician. If this is the case, I typically hire the other musicians for you. The harp sounds wonderful with many other instruments, including, duo's with flute, violin, cello, clarinet or trumpet, trios with one high instrument and one low one for example harp, flute and cello, or, harp, violin, and cello, and of course larger groups of up to six players are possible.

Northern Michigan has many fine musicians because the Interlochen Arts Academy has drawn them here. One of those is my husband Jeffery Norris who is an excellent baritone and often performs with me as a soloist. I also work with some fine female singers, and sometimes couples request a vocal duo. Some people want to be able to utilize a family member or friend to perform and this is also possible, but I feel less confident in guaranteeing the final product when I work with non-professionals.

Finally, I want to tell you a bit about the reception. Many people hire me to play part or all of the reception, either alone or with one or two others. One of my favorite combinations is to use a flutist who also doubles on saxophone. This grouping allows for lots of versatility in the styles, (from classical to jazz with everything in between, including a little Kenny G). As a solo harpist, my background music repertoire runs around seven hours of different selections.

When you have finalized your selections, would you mind mailing the wedding planner portion or this packet back to me with the C.D. please? That way we should both have a good record of what you would like.

Thanks for reading this long letter. I've given you a lot of information that may or may not apply to your particular case, but it saves a lot of questions in the long run. Please contact me for any help that I can provide. I would be happy to give you a list of references should you request them. In case you are wondering about my qualifications, I am an alumnus of Interlochen, the Eastman School of Music, and the Aspen Music Festival, and have performed with nearly every professional orchestra in Michigan, including the Detroit Symphony. I was a harp instructor at the Interlochen Arts Camp for seven summers. I long ago lost count of the number of weddings that I have participated in, but it must be around eight or nine hundred by this time! Best wishes as you work toward this special day and thank you again.

Sylvia Norris

Wedding Music Planner

Brides Name _____ Phone number(s) _____

Email Address _____

Address _____

Grooms Name _____ Phone number(s) _____

Wedding Date _____ Wedding Location _____

Wedding Time _____ Approximate ending time _____

Phone Number of Ceremony Site/Reception Site _____

How many guests are you expecting? _____

Does the service end with an introduction of the bride and groom? Yes / No

Music Selections

Prelude _____

Seating of Parents _____

Procession of Attendants _____ Number of Female Attendants _____

Procession of Bride _____ Number of Children in Party _____

Service Music _____

Unity Candle _____

Communion _____

Recessional _____

Postlude _____

Please pay the balance two weeks prior to the ceremony. The deposit will secure your wedding date and time. It is non-refundable if cancelled 90 days prior to the wedding date. If the balance is not paid in full prior to the wedding ceremony, a 15% late charge will be added. Please fill out all applicable information, make a copy for yourself and mail with deposit to:

Sylvia Norris, 2986 Silver Farms Lane, Traverse City, MI 49684

Deposit amount \$ _____

Balance amount \$ _____ (Due - two weeks prior to ceremony)