



Dear Engaged Couple,

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding.

Please allow me to share some thoughts on music at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.

The Marriage Rite is a Sacrament of the Church. As such, music is an integral part of this Rite. The policy of the cathedral regarding music during the liturgy requires that all selections be truly religious and appropriate to the liturgical celebration. *Only sacred texts set to artistically-sound music will serve to enhance the liturgical action.*

Sacred music is sung prayer—music that has been created in petition and thanks to God. Music from or influenced by the stage, screen, or popular culture are incapable of bearing the weight of the liturgy and should be reserved for such events as the reception.

As the Mother Church for the Diocese and the seat of the Bishop, liturgies offered at the cathedral are modeled with excellence to the glory of God and the sanctification and edification of the faithful. Therefore, *all music must conform to the local custom of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart* and be taken from the treasury of sacred repertoire. We uphold the most traditional guidelines of musical, liturgical, and pastoral judgment of the Roman Catholic Church.

Music and musicians for all liturgical celebrations at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart are provided exclusively by the cathedral's professional music staff. Please do not make any final decisions regarding music at your wedding until you have met with the cathedral Director of Music and Liturgy Daniel Sañez to discuss your music options. You can begin this process by writing to him at your earliest convenience at dsanez@richmondcathedral.org. Please keep your meeting with Daniel strictly limited to *yourselves* (*only* bride and groom should be present).

We hope that the music at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart will add to the grace, beauty, and solemnity of your wedding liturgy. God bless you and God speed you on your journey toward Holy Matrimony.

Thank you for your kind attention and respect for our custom.

Monsignor Patrick D. Golden,
Rector of the Cathedral