WEDDING MUSIC GUIDE

Everything you need to know to plan your wedding music, prepare your venue, and make sure everything runs smoothly on the day.

Quick Checklist:

☐ **Complete your Wedding Details form** at least 2 weeks prior to the event (you have been emailed a link to edit it at any time)
☐ **Pay your remaining balance** on or before the wedding date (cash, cheque, or e-transfer to elisathorn@gmail.com)
☐ Make sure there is **appropriate weather coverage** for outdoor events

Useful links:

🎵 View Song List
📸 View Instagram

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1. Venue & Setup Checklist

Please share these requirements with your venue or wedding planner so we can make sure everything is ready for the performance.

General Setup Requirements

- **Space:** Please allow approximately 3–4 feet of space per musician. The harp setup requires a footprint of approximately 5 × 3 feet, including room for the instrument, bench, and safe access.
- **Seating:** A standard-height, armless chair is required for each musician.
- **Surface:** The harp needs a flat, stable surface.
- **Fluids & bubbles:** No fluids or sprays, including bubble machines, may be directed at or near the instruments.
- **Power:** Solo and duo performances can run on battery power. Trios and larger ensembles require access to power.

Outdoor Performance Requirements

Outdoor performances are possible, but the instruments need protection from sun, rain, heat, cold, and unstable ground.

☀️Shade on sunny days

Direct sunlight and extreme heat can damage the instruments. Please provide at least 3–4 feet of shaded space per musician. As a general guideline, a 10-foot umbrella can usually provide adequate shade for up to two musicians.

☔Overhead protection from rain

Wooden instruments must not get wet. If there is any chance of rain, a 10 × 10 ft pop-up tent or other secure overhead covering is required to protect the instruments. Alternatively, an appropriate indoor location must be arranged in advance in case of inclement weather.

🪑 Flat, stable ground

Grass is fine, provided the ground is reasonably level, dry, and stable. If the ground is excessively muddy or wet, the harp requires a board or thick, sturdy mat underneath it to create a stable surface. This must be at least 4 × 3 feet.

❄️Cold weather

When the temperature is below 15°C, outdoor heaters must be provided and positioned near the performance area. Heaters must be safely positioned at an appropriate distance from the harp and other instruments to prevent damage from direct heat, and must not create a fire or other safety hazard.

✖️Unsuitable weather conditions

I reserve the right to move the performance indoors if weather conditions above have not been met and become unsuitable for the instruments or performer.

If an outdoor performance must be cancelled due to unsuitable weather and no appropriate indoor alternative has been arranged, the full contract price remains payable.

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2. Music & Planning FAQ

How much setup time do you need?

I typically arrive 30 minutes before the music start time to unload and set up the harp and amplification. This time is included in your booking. More complex setups or venues with challenging access may require additional time.

How do we choose the music? Do you take requests?

Browse my **song list 🎵** and find performance samples on my **Instagram**.

I'm always adding to my repertoire and am happy to learn special requests! If there's a song you have in mind that isn't on my list, just let me know and I'll do my best to find a version that works beautifully on the harp.

If I need to purchase sheet music for your request, I ask that you cover the cost, which is usually around $10 per song. If a custom arrangement is required, I'll let you know in advance and provide a quote based on the complexity of the arrangement.

What songs do I need to select for my ceremony?

There are generally three parts of the ceremony that require specific song selections:

Processional
You can choose one song for the entire processional or separate songs for different entrances, such as family, wedding party, and couple.

There's no right or wrong approach, but I generally recommend keeping song changes to a minimum. This allows each piece to be enjoyed for longer and creates a more natural, continuous flow.

Signing of the Registry
This is a lovely opportunity for a longer piece or a few different musical selections.

Recessional
Something upbeat and joyful to celebrate your newly married status!

Other ceremony moments
I generally don't recommend playing music during the speaking portions of the ceremony. However, moments such as candle lighting, sand pouring, or other ceremony rituals can be lovely opportunities for music.

Do I need to choose the entire prelude and postlude playlist?

Not at all! There's no need to create an entire playlist. Just let me know if you have a particular vibe, genre, or specific songs you'd like included, and I can fill in the rest.

Will the harp be loud enough?

Yes! I always amplify the harp so it can be heard clearly without requiring me to play unnaturally loudly. For larger events, I can connect to the venue's or DJ's sound system, or bring my own amplification.

What if I need a microphone for the officiant?

A wireless microphone for your officiant can be added to your ceremony setup, so your vows and ceremony can be heard clearly without needing to coordinate with another vendor. The microphone is suitable for weddings of up to 200 guests and is available for a $75 rental fee.

Can you move locations during the wedding?

Yes! I'm happy to move the harp between locations, such as from the ceremony to cocktail hour. Please allow approximately 10 minutes to move and set up at the new location.

What happens if the ceremony runs late?

I'm happy to adjust the music in real time if the ceremony or processional takes longer than expected. However, I cannot guarantee that I'll be able to stay beyond our agreed-upon end time, as I may have another commitment afterward.

If additional playing time is requested and I'm available, overtime charges apply in 15-minute increments.

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3. Booking & Policies

Booking & Payment

A non-refundable deposit is required to secure your booking. The remaining balance is due by the day of the performance.

Cancellation Policy

If you cancel within 30 days of your event, the full contract price remains payable, less any amounts already paid.

Overtime & Schedule Changes

I'll always do my best to be flexible if things run behind schedule, but I cannot guarantee that I'll be available to stay beyond our agreed-upon end time, particularly if there are significant delays.

Additional playing time requested by the client is charged at $45 per performer per additional 15 minutes, payable with the remaining balance on the day of the event. Overtime is subject to availability.

Breaks

For performances lasting 90 minutes or longer, the performer is entitled to a 10-minute break approximately every hour, as needed.

Performer Cancellation

In the rare event that I'm unable to perform due to illness or an emergency, I'm responsible for finding a suitable replacement. I have a network of trusted colleagues who can step in if needed.

Thank you for helping make the music a beautiful part of your day!

If you have any questions or special requests, please don't hesitate to get in touch.