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Here Comes the Bride

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here comes the bride

By Marilyn Wright
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THERE'S been music in your heart for a long time now. Suddenly you realize that music will be a part of your wedding, too—a very important part. Yours is the problem of selecting the melodies which will provide an ideal background for the big occasion.

There are a few simple rules to follow when thinking of music for YOUR wedding. You must decide whether to have a vocal or instrumental soloist. Much of this will depend upon whether there is an organ in your church and the elaborateness of your wedding. Sometimes it is nice to have a solo or two with a violin and organ accompaniment before the vocalist sings. However, in a very small church and a small ceremony with just a few intimate friends and relatives, it would be inappropriate.

You must choose a soloist in whom you have confidence. There is enough to worry about without the soloist getting temperamental or deciding he can't sing at the last moment. It is up to your individual taste whether the soloist be a man or woman. It is up to you to notify him or her early about your choice of songs.

Preceding the ceremony

Music preceding the wedding is usually thirty minutes of continuous playing before the wedding procession. Many times a bride will have certain songs played during this time which have a special meaning to the couple. "Liebestraum," "Clair de Lune," or

some of Claude Debussy's "dream music" would fit in nicely here.

The music should have a dreamy quality and not strike resounding notes in minor keys, for this is usually thought of as sad or reflective music. You must remember that weddings are to be times of rejoicing and quiet gaiety, so the music should have that feeling, also. If you have no preferences as to what is played, the organist will take over and make her own selections.

There are individual differences in all denominations concerning the customs, ritual and music which must be followed by the bride, but she usually has a wide range of songs from which to choose. During the service "The Lord's Prayer" by Malotte, the "Twenty-third Psalm," "Ave Maria" or "Panis Angelicus" by Franck are often used.

Before the bride's grand entrance, there is a much wider field from which to choose. Such selections as "I Love Thee" by Grieg or "Wedding Prayer" by Diggle lend a fitting atmosphere. Also, compositions such as "O Perfect Love" by Burleigh or "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" by Bach, are beautiful. It isn't appropriate to have old popular songs like "Always," or "Smilin' Through" in a church wedding, just as you wouldn't want to waltz down the aisle to "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes." These would be very nice for the reception.

Reception selections

Usually you would have the same soloist for your reception as for the wedding. However, if you are over-supplied with friends who are excellent singers, they would probably feel quite honored if you would ask one of them to sing.

The reception music is an entirely different problem than the wedding music. The reception, however formal or informal, will have a lighter type of music. If it is a large reception, perhaps violin music would be your choice; however a vocal soloist is always suitable. Such music as "Ziguener," "You Are Love," "At Dawning," "One Alone," "Thine Alone," "Always," "Ah! Sweet Mystery of Life" would be appropriate.

Whatever music you have for the reception, its main function is to serve as background for the "chit-chat." One or two solos would be enough for the entire reception. Soloists for receptions also must be notified early of your selections.

Atmosphere created

For very small weddings, the entire atmosphere is more informal, calling for more informal songs for the organ or piano, soloist, and the reception. Such songs as "I Love You Truly" are commonly chosen for the wedding ceremony, along with "The Lord's Prayer," for instance.

Whatever type of wedding you are having, it is going to be "an original" created especially for you by you. Let your music reflect you as an individual just as your gown and choice of setting for the ceremony will. Then the final effect will be one of harmony, each detail you so carefully planned blending together to compliment you on your most perfect day.