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## MUSIC AND THE WEDDING CEREMONY

*“Where words fail, music speaks.”*

Hans Christian Andersen

*Foreword by Kathryn Lounsbury*

The wedding day is one of the most important days in a couple's life. It begins a new phase of their relationship and everyone, most especially the bride and groom, wants everything to be perfect. There are many wedding planners who can arrange and handle all the details of a wedding and relieve you from the stress of doing it yourself. There are also many fine books on the subject. The subject of this book, however, is limited to the music portion of the wedding.

Unfortunately, too little attention is given to the role played by the music performed before, during, and after the ceremony. Choosing the musicians is the first step that needs to be addressed. Many wedding planners work with a number of pianists, singers, guitarists and

other instrumentalists. If you are handling most of the details of a wedding yourself, there is a section below to help you find musicians.

Equally as important is the selecting of the music to be performed during the four sections of the wedding ceremony. That is where this book of the *Complete Collection of Piano Solos for Weddings* becomes invaluable. With such a large selection of music to choose from, this book will help you select the right songs for each part of the ceremony: Pre-Ceremony, Processional, During the Ceremony, and Recessional. While there are many options for musicians, pianists remain the most popular and most often-used musicians at weddings.

### ROLE OF THE PIANIST

I am a professional pianist who has performed in hundreds of weddings of all denominations and sizes. I have performed indoors and outdoors (even on the beach), in all kinds of venues and environments. The information I have provided comes not only from my own experience but from other professional pianists who also have performed at a large number of weddings. And yet after all this, what is the single most important thing I have learned? That every wedding is a little bit different and the unexpected is to be expected. As a pianist, then, you must be prepared for anything. It is my hope that the following information will help all pianists, whether new or experienced, make the wedding ceremony a joyful experience for the bride and groom, and one they will always cherish and remember.



The pianist has more to do than just providing the music—he/she is also somewhat of a music director and a conductor. Once the ceremony starts, in addition to the officiant (the person who leads the ceremony), the pianist assists with the timing and flow of each part. It is essential for the pianist to be briefed on the details of the ceremony beforehand. The more informed the

pianist is, the better the ceremony will be. I know that when I am playing for a wedding, the more I know the better. That way, if there is a problem of any kind, I will be well-prepared and ready to save the day! I suggest you have this book with you when you speak to the bride and groom with your recommendations checked off in advance as to what is appropriate.



### STYLE OF CEREMONY

If you are the bride and groom reading this section, you should decide whether your ceremony will be traditional, contemporary or completely unique. The more you know about the style of your ceremony, the more direction you can give your pianist. The music you choose can enhance the style of the ceremony. I have played for countless ceremonies that were completely unique. Those are often times the more meaningful ceremonies. Even though I'm "the hired help," I've certainly had my moments of feeling emotional at weddings because the couple took the time to personalize their ceremony. Not only is it more significant for the bride and groom, but it is ultimately more exciting for everyone in attendance. I urge you to be bold in your decision-making! It is, after all, your special day.

# BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

FROM WALT DISNEY'S *BEAUTY AND THE BEAST*

Lyrics by Howard Ashman

Music by Alan Menken

Arr. Jan Sanborn

Moderately slow (♩ = 72)

*mp*  
RH  
with pedal

4

7

10

Detailed description: This is a piano arrangement of the opening of the song 'Beauty and the Beast'. The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (D major). The tempo is 'Moderately slow' with a quarter note equal to 72 beats per minute. The music is marked 'mp' (mezzo-piano) and 'RH' (right hand). The first system (measures 1-3) features a melody in the right hand with fingerings 1-2-4 and 1-2-3, and a bass line with chords and a 'with pedal' instruction. The second system (measures 4-6) continues the melody with a slur and a fermata over the final note. The third system (measures 7-9) includes a '1-5' fingering in the right hand and a '1' fingering. The fourth system (measures 10-12) features a '3' fingering in the right hand. The bass line throughout consists of chords and moving lines, often with a 'with pedal' instruction.

## EMILY

Music by Johnny Mandel  
 Words by Johnny Mercer  
 Arr. Jan Sanborn

**Tenderly**

*with pedal*

5

*rit.*

1

9 **Freely**

*mp*

3-5 4

*(roll when necessary)*