

Helpful Hints for Planning Your Wedding Day

When you book with Silverwood, we will work with you to make your planning efficient, easy, and fun. Call us with any questions. Here are some things to think about as you plan your wedding, but remember we are there every step of the way to help you.

In the early planning stages:

- Check with your officiant about your music choices. Some churches don't allow certain music.
- As soon as possible, obtain a general order of service so you will know where there are opportunities for music. I recommend having at least one piece during the ceremony so the bride and groom can take a deep breath and have a chance to enjoy the music.
- Listen to the Silverwood Here Comes The Bride CD and other music to choose your favorites.
- If you have a special song that is not in the classical repertoire, ask the ensemble if it can be played and check to see if the CD and sheet music is available. (A heavy metal song will not sound good with flute and harp and a symphony will sound pretty sparse with a trio!)
- Just choose your favorite pieces and work with your musicians to fit them into the ceremony for maximum effect.
- Make your final selections at least three weeks before the wedding.



Two weeks before the wedding:

- Make sure your bridal consultant has spoken with the musicians
- Give the musicians a clear order of ceremony including number of mothers and grandmothers to be seated, number of bridesmaids, flower girls, and ring bearers. Will the mothers light a unity candle before they are seated? When will the men enter?
- Check your photographer's schedule to make sure the photos are finished 40 minutes before the ceremony to allow time for the musicians to set up. (A string quartet can set up in fifteen minutes but a harp may take forty to move in and tune.) Musicians will need to rehearse one half hour before the prelude if they are accompanying a singer or other special guest.
- Appoint someone to give the musicians their cue. This can be the job of the wedding consultant, the church bridal consultant, or, if necessary, a special friend. Opening the rear doors, or waving of a hand may be the only cue needed.
- Pay the musicians!

At the rehearsal:

- It's not necessary for the Silverwood musicians to come to the rehearsal. We have been performing at weddings for many years and have a talent for making the timing of each piece just right.
- It is very helpful for members of the wedding party to hear the Here Comes The Bride CD to acquaint them with their special processional music. Play the CD when practicing the processional during the rehearsal.

Planning for the wedding:

- Place the musicians during the ceremony where they will have a clear view of the processional.
- Have the required number of armless chairs where the musicians will be for the ceremony and reception.
- If the wedding is outside, please be sure the musicians are shaded or covered- those instruments are expensive.
- Ask the officiant and the bridal consultant to speak to the musicians to review the order of the processional and other timing.

At the wedding:

Enjoy your wonderful day. Leave the rest to us! Music makes the moment special and makes lasting memories. Enjoy your music and your special day.