



Ceremony Music Frequently Asked Questions

What is the cost of ceremony musicians?

Price is travel and/or the addition of custom musical arrangements.

What size groups are available?

Solo musicians to small chamber orchestras. For most weddings the “sweet spot” is the trio (3 musicians) and quartet (4 musicians). These groups provide tremendous value supplying a full and impactful sound with the largest selection of musical pieces to choose from.

How long should I hire them for?

Our ceremony package includes up to 75 minutes which is typically broken down into 30 minutes of prelude music as guests are being seated, 30 minutes for the ceremony itself, and fifteen minutes of postlude music as guests are leaving. You are welcome to hire a group for longer should you need additional time for the ceremony or if you would like music for the cocktail or dinner hour; pricing beyond the ceremony package is broken down by each additional half hour of time.

Can they play contemporary music?

Yes. In addition to having a huge collection of classical music we also have a nice selection of pop, rock, show tunes that have been arranged for string ensembles. Custom arrangements are also an option for a small additional fee if you'd like to hear your favorite song performed for your wedding.

Do you have backup musicians?

Our string ensembles are made up of a group of highly skilled, professional musicians with years of solo, symphony, and educational experience. Travel, training, and innumerable hours of study have allowed each performer to become a valuable piece of the ensemble, adding insight and interpretation to each performance. Because the groups are created from a deep pool of performers, we are able to ensure there is more than one musician per chair should the need for a substitute arise.

Do you take custom requests? Will you do a custom arrangement(s) for me?

Absolutely! This has become very popular and many couples as for “their song” arranged for strings. If we have the arrangement already there is no cost; if we need to create a new arrangement there is an additional cost based on the number of musicians you are hiring. Custom arrangements normally fall between \$50 - \$100.

What if the ceremony and reception are at different locations?

This is very common. Our ensembles are happy to travel between the ceremony and reception locations, but please note travel time is considered part of the performance time.

What do we need to provide you?

Our musicians require bottled water, parking, and one armless chair per musician.

Will the group be able to accompany my sister/cousin/friend for a song?

In some cases, yes. We will work to facilitate this request but will need to know a number of details in advance including the name of the song and the key, and a copy of the sheet music.

Can I choose the instrumentation?

Absolutely, but please note this may affect what music is available for the group. Our wedding specialist can advise on the most common configurations and what music is available for substitutions.

What do the musicians wear?

The typical attire is all black, however our musicians are willing to dress up or down to fit your needs.

Can you amplify the group?

While amplification is possible, it does not come standard with each group. Our wedding specialist will be happy to discuss your amplification needs, which typically depend on whether the event is indoors or outdoors, the size of the venue, and the number of guests in attendance.

I don't really know classical music, will you assist with music selection?

Absolutely. Both our wedding specialist and the leader of your ensemble are happy to help you select music for the ceremony or reception.

Does the cost include setup and teardown?

You pay no additional cost for setup and teardown.

What other services do you offer?

Showstoppers is a full service agency and can provide a wide variety of live entertainment from the best dance bands to specialty musicians like bagpipes. We can also assist with some a/v needs like a speaker and wireless microphone for the officiant and bride and groom at the ceremony.

Why should we hire you?

Our ceremony ensembles are professional, high-quality musicians with years of combined event and wedding experience. In addition, our wedding specialist will guide you through the process of selecting an ensemble, picking music, and confirming details for you. Our job is to make sure you have nothing to worry about on your big day!