

Wedding music varies with bride's tastes

By DEBRA COOPER
Copley News Service

Gone are the days when all wedding processions were accompanied by an organist playing the bridal chorus from Robert Wagner's "Lohengrin" and all recessionals were accompanied by the wedding march from Felix Mendelssohn's "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Many brides now see music as an ideal way to personalize their weddings, and so have their wedding marches to the beats of many different drummers - from recorded versions of "The Theme from Love Story," to simple hymns sung by members of the congregation, to festive Baroque tunes played by musical ensembles featuring real trumpets for the fanfares.

Whereas yesterday's bride relied almost exclusively on the church organist for wedding music, today's bride is likely to interview a horde of potential musicians to find just the right sound. The selection of musicians has a high priority on a bride's list of things to do early in the planning stages, and "Bride's" magazine recommends beginning the search as soon as the wedding date is set.

Clergy members are some of the first people to contact about wedding music. Many churches restrict the types of music that can be played in the chapel. Also, clergy members often can recommend musicians that regularly perform at the chapel. If a bride is being married in a hotel or banquet room, managers can be contacted for recommendations.

Even if an organist is affiliated with the church at which the wedding is

performed, weddings are not a part of his regular job. He therefore expects to be paid a fee, usually between \$25 to \$50. Vocalists and instrumentalists will quote a separate fee of their own, probably at least \$50, as will choirs and ensembles, which will be more expensive.

A less expensive option for the bride is to have high school students, friends and family members perform musical selections at the wedding. There is nothing more personal than having the bride's sister sing a solo accompanied by her brother on guitar, but if the bride is concerned that every detail be perfect, she should stick with the professionals, according to "Bride's."

Once the musicians have been selected, individual songs must be chosen. No matter what a bride's taste in music, there are multitudes of appropriate songs, and she should have musicians play or sing several for her and then pick her favorites.

For the simple ceremony held at home or in a garden, records or tapes of wedding music are appropriate replace-

ments for musicians. All types of wedding music are available on records or tapes that often can be rented from record stores or taken out on loan from libraries.

To find musicians for the reception, a bride can first ask the manager of the hall or hotel in which the reception will be held for recommendations. She also can check telephone book listings, call the musicians' union in her area and contact school band and orchestra directors.

The first step in making a selection is to call each group to determine if they are available the day and time of the reception and if they play the types of music required - whether that be big band, country, soft rock or a mixture of all types. Then, the bride should get a cost estimate for the number of hours she'd like the band to play.

If responses to these inquiries are acceptable, the bride should ask to hear the group perform - preferably at a club or wedding, but at least at one of their practice sessions.

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