

MUSIC FOR YOUR DAY

The soundtrack to your day.

Choose the moments you are including. Find the songs that feel like you. Keep everything together.

- 01 Choose only the moments you want from the checklists. Nothing here is mandatory.
- 02 Use the song sheets for exact tracks, live arrangements, or a playlist brief. Copy those pages when you need more.
- 03 Number your chosen moments in event order. Keep a shortlist until you decide.
- 04 Share the finished plan with your DJ, band, celebrant, and the person giving each cue.

Your names

Wedding date

Music choices due by

DJ, band, or person handling the music

One song can cover several entrances. Cocktail hour, dinner, and open dancing can be a mood and a few examples for your provider. Silence is a complete choice, too.

01 / CHOOSE YOUR MOMENTS

The ceremony, from arrival to exit

Tick what fits your day. Combine, rename, or skip any moment. Use the web planner for fuller notes about each option.

Before the ceremony

- ☐ Getting ready
- ☐ First look or private vows
- ☐ Guests arriving and taking their seats
- ☐ A performance before the ceremony

Ceremony entrances

- ☐ Officiant or celebrant entrance
- ☐ Grandparents or honored guests
- ☐ Parents or family seating
- ☐ Partner one's entrance
- ☐ Wedding party walking in
- ☐ Flower children, ring bearers, or pets
- ☐ Partner two's entrance
- ☐ Walking in together

During the ceremony and walking out

- ☐ Reading or reflection
- ☐ Unity ritual
- ☐ Signing the register or documents
- ☐ Remembrance or dedication
- ☐ Ceremony solo or instrumental piece
- ☐ Your ceremony exit
- ☐ Guests leaving the ceremony

01 / CHOOSE YOUR MOMENTS

Arrivals, dinner, and dances

Tick what fits your day. Combine, rename, or skip any moment. Use the web planner for fuller notes about each option.

Reception arrivals and the meal

- ☐ Cocktail hour or welcome drinks
- ☐ Reception doors opening
- ☐ Family introductions
- ☐ Wedding-party reception entrance
- ☐ Your reception entrance
- ☐ Dinner or wedding breakfast
- ☐ Toasts or speaker walk-ups
- ☐ Outfit change or second entrance

Dances with your people

- ☐ Your first dance
- ☐ Partner one with a parent or special person
- ☐ Partner two with a parent or special person
- ☐ Combined parent or special-person dance
- ☐ Another parent, stepparent, sibling, or friend
- ☐ Children or blended-family dance
- ☐ Wedding-party dance
- ☐ Anniversary or married-couples dance
- ☐ Money, dollar, or apron dance
- ☐ Opening the dance floor

01 / CHOOSE YOUR MOMENTS

The party and the last song

Tick what fits your day. Combine, rename, or skip any moment. Use the web planner for fuller notes about each option.

The party and other traditions

- ☐ Open dancing
- ☐ Slow dances
- ☐ Group or line dances
- ☐ Cake cutting or dessert reveal
- ☐ Bouquet toss or bouquet dedication
- ☐ Garter removal
- ☐ Garter toss
- ☐ Garter placement
- ☐ Reception game or surprise
- ☐ Family, friend, or hired performance
- ☐ Music during a live-band break
- ☐ A special song dedication

The end of the night

- ☐ Last song with your guests
- ☐ Private last dance
- ☐ Send-off or grand exit
- ☐ After-party music

01 / CHOOSE YOUR MOMENTS

Your cultures, your families

Tick what fits your day. Combine, rename, or skip any moment. Use the web planner for fuller notes about each option.

Cultural and family celebrations

- ☐ Welcome party or rehearsal dinner
- ☐ Farewell brunch or next-day gathering
- ☐ A family welcome or tea ceremony
- ☐ A cultural or regional dance set
- ☐ Baraat or arrival procession
- ☐ Sangeet performances
- ☐ Mehndi, haldi, or other pre-wedding gathering
- ☐ Varmala or garland exchange
- ☐ Pheras or sacred ceremony music
- ☐ Vidaai or farewell
- ☐ Kabbalat panim or bedeken
- ☐ Chuppah procession and ceremony melodies
- ☐ Celebration after breaking the glass
- ☐ Hora or other Jewish dance sets
- ☐ Zaffa or zaffe entrance
- ☐ Dabke set
- ☐ New Orleans second line

These are examples, not a complete list of cultures or a fixed order. Confirm the music and format with the people guiding your traditions. Add dates for events before or after the wedding.

01 / CHOOSE YOUR MOMENTS

Faith and your own traditions

Tick what fits your day. Combine, rename, or skip any moment. Use the web planner for fuller notes about each option.

Music within a religious service

- ☐ Entrance hymn or gathering song
- ☐ Responsorial psalm
- ☐ Gospel acclamation
- ☐ Preparation of the gifts
- ☐ Service acclamations
- ☐ Communion music
- ☐ Devotional or thanksgiving music
- ☐ Closing hymn or instrumental exit

These service prompts especially reflect Catholic liturgy. Your officiant and music director decide what applies and which texts or settings are suitable. Other faiths and family traditions can use the spaces below.

Our own moment 1

Our own moment 2

Our own moment 3

02 / COPY THESE PAGES AS NEEDED

One moment at a time

Use exact versions and clear cues. For a background set, describe a mood; for quiet, write “no music”.

MOMENT 1

Moment / people

Order / time / day

Song, piece, or playlist mood

Artist / musician

Exact version / arrangement

Listening reference

Start timestamp / cue / who signals

Finish / fade / person playing

Shortlist, status, and notes

MOMENT 2

Moment / people

Order / time / day

Song, piece, or playlist mood

Artist / musician

Exact version / arrangement

Listening reference

Start timestamp / cue / who signals

Finish / fade / person playing

Shortlist, status, and notes

02 / COPY THESE PAGES AS NEEDED

One moment at a time

Use exact versions and clear cues. For a background set, describe a mood; for quiet, write “no music”.

MOMENT 3

Moment / people

Order / time / day

Song, piece, or playlist mood

Artist / musician

Exact version / arrangement

Listening reference

Start timestamp / cue / who signals

Finish / fade / person playing

Shortlist, status, and notes

MOMENT 4

Moment / people

Order / time / day

Song, piece, or playlist mood

Artist / musician

Exact version / arrangement

Listening reference

Start timestamp / cue / who signals

Finish / fade / person playing

Shortlist, status, and notes

03 / THE BRIEF FOR YOUR MUSIC PROVIDER

The whole-room feeling

Mood, genres, languages, energy, and volume

Must-play songs (include artist and version)

Do-not-play songs or activities

Clean / explicit version preferences

Guest requests: welcome, check first, or none?

People who may approve changes, pronunciations, and other notes

Before you hand it over

- ☐ Exact recordings, edits, and live arrangements agreed
- ☐ Order, timings, cue-givers, and pronunciations checked
- ☐ Sound coverage, microphones, and rehearsals arranged
- ☐ Offline playback and backup responsibility agreed
- ☐ Venue music finish time and supplier coverage confirmed

KEEP THE PLAN EASY TO USE

A few things worth remembering

The version matters

A live recording, acoustic version, instrumental cover, and radio edit may start differently. Rehearse with the exact version your provider will use.

A link is a reference

Listening links help identify a recording. They are not music files, an offline backup, or confirmation that your supplier has the right edit.

Quiet is a valid choice

You do not need background music under vows, readings, or speeches. Agree on any music around spoken moments.

Keep the handover clear

Mark decisions as still choosing, shortlisted, chosen, or confirmed with your provider. Put all events in order and name who gives each cue.

Research and further reading

The Knot: Ceremony music order

Mike Staff Productions: Reception planning worksheet

My Wedding Songs: Wedding music moments

The Knot: Order of wedding dances

Saint Michael Parish: Wedding liturgy planning guide

Ratzon Orchestra: Jewish wedding music guide

Art Gharana: Music by wedding function

ZaffaZaffe: Zaffa and Dabke planning

New Orleans & Company: Wedding second lines

Reviewed September 17, 2026. This is an adaptable planning aid, not a prescribed ceremony. Keep this copy for your own planning.