

WHAT'S ON YOUR PLAYLIST?

There was a time when a bride and groom selected music for the ceremony and for their first dance and left the rest of the music selections to their band or deejay.

Those days are long gone. Today's couples often put together their own play lists for their reception, or at the very least, a do-not-play list.

What kind of music are couples in this area choosing for their special moments?

Some popular songs for the procession, used for both bride and attendants, include such traditional songs as: Canon in D (Pachelbel); The Four Seasons (Vivaldi); Air on the G String (Bach); Trumpet Voluntary (Purcell); Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (Bach), and that perennial favorite, The Bridal Chorus (Lohengrin).

Some brides prefer something less traditional, and opt for songs such as "Junk" by Paul McCartney; "Forever" by Ben Harper; "Center of My Joy" by Richard Smallwood, or "Over the Rainbow" by Israel Kamakawiwo Ole.

Prelude music before the processional varies greatly, ranging from "Isn't it Romantic?" "As Time Goes By," "All I Ask of You" (Andrew Lloyd Webber); "You're So Cool" by Hans Zimmer (from the movie "True Romance"), "When I Fall In Love," to very classical music by Beethoven, Mozart, Bach and Handel.

Recessional music is no longer confined to the Wedding March from "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by Mendelssohn. Today's couples choose from the "Hallelujah Chorus" by Handel, "How Sweet it Is" by James Taylor, and "All You Need is Love" by The Beatles.

When the bridal party and newly-married couple are introduced at the reception, almost anything goes. Favorites include "It's a Beautiful Day" by U2; "Get the Party Started" by Pink; "I Believe in a Thing Called Love" by The Darkness; "Gonna Fly Now" by Bill Conti; "Crazy in Love" by Beyonce and Jay-Z; "More Today Than Yesterday" by Spiral Staircase, and even college fight songs.

Couples usually choose what they consider "their song" for the first dance, although thought should be given to whether that song is "danceable." Meeting the bill are such tunes as "At Last" by Etta James; "From This Moment On" by Shania Twain; "Can't Help Falling in Love" by Elvis Presley; "Beyond the Sea" by Bobby Darin; "So High" by John Legend; "The Beauty of Who You



Are” by Marc Broussard; “Unforgettable” by Nat King Cole and Natalie Cole, and “The Way You Look Tonight” by Frank Sinatra.

During the cake-cutting, some ideas include “Love You Madly” by Cake; “This Will Be (An Everlasting Love) by Natalie Cole; “You’re Nobody Till Somebody Loves You” by Dean Martin, and “Why Do I Love You?” by Miles Davis.

There was a time when every bride and her father danced to “Daddy’s Little Girl,” but today’s brides often choose something like “Isn’t She Lovely?” by Stevie Wonder; “Hero” by Mariah Carey; “Have I Told You Lately” by Rod Stewart; “My Girl” by The Temptations; “Father and Daughter” by Paul Simon; “Little Miss Magic” by Jimmy Buffett; “Just the Way You Are” by Billy Joel; “Because You Loved Me” by Celine Dion; “If I Ain’t Got You” by Alicia Keys, and “In my Daughter’s Eyes” by Martina McBride.

Bridegrooms and their mothers have been choosing such songs as “The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face” by Roberta Flack; “I Wish You Love” by Natalie Cole; “Through the Years” by Kenny Rodgers; “Don’t Know Why” by Norah Jones; “The Wind Beneath My Wings,” “Loves Me Like a Rock” by Paul Simon; “The Perfect Fan” by Backstreet Boys; “I Hope You Dance” by Lee Ann Womack, and “What a Wonderful World” by Louis Armstrong.

To close out a wonderful evening, couples choose songs such as “Last Dance” by Donna Summer; “I’ve Had the Time of My Life” (Bill Medley and Jennifer Warnes); “Closing Time” by Semisonic; “Save the Last Dance for Me” by Michael Buble; “Family Reunion” by the O’Jays and “Fly Me to the Moon” by Frank Sinatra.

Keep in mind that the music you choose for the reception plays a large role in whether your guests feel like dancing all night. Remind your attendants that they can help keeping the dance floor lively. And give your band or deejay flexibility to change the playlist you have devised depending upon what your guests seem to like.