

# Wedding Bells



**By: Kate Grana**

Alright, you have thought about every little detail of your special day, but have you thought about the music at the actual service? No, you have left that for last because of all the other difficult decisions that had to be made for the rest of the day. Dress, check; shoes, check; limo, check; attendant's gifts, check; flowers, check.... We could go on and on: big day, big decisions. Don't fall short on the actual ceremony. Really think about hiring a professional soloist for the ceremony, whatever type you choose.

If you are marrying in a church or synagogue, take the time to contact the music minister or the organist to consult with him or her as to what would be appropriate for your particular service. If you are using them as your vocalist, ask to hear their work at a regular Sunday or Saturday service. Not all organists are gifted vocalists, too. Some organists may have suggestions for vocalists, or other types of soloists including trumpet, violinists, harpists or flute players that may add that extra touch of class that you are looking for.

You could also look in the yellow pages, bridal books and the bridal section of your local newspapers. Bridal shows will offer different groups and music services that you can investigate. Ask for references or a demo CD. This will help you eliminate the sounds that you don't like and will narrow your selections. Be prepared to pay for consultations, rehearsal times, travel and the actual performance at the ceremony.

A word to the wise, even though you might have a cousin with "a beautiful voice," don't take the chance of a non-professional who might freeze on the big day, or not know how to work with a professional organist or instrumentalist. Don't expect them to rehearse your non-professional soloist into a "star" on the day of the ceremony, either.

If you are having an outdoor ceremony, be sure to check on the sound system and setup for the musicians. Think about where the electricity will come from or that perhaps you will be using acoustic instruments. Don't leave anything to chance. Test all the systems before the time comes to walk down the aisle. Figure in wind factors and extraneous sounds that might interfere with your minister saying your vows.

Remember, a bit of forethought will give you a wedding to remember.

Kate Grana is a classically trained soloist and is available for both weddings and funerals. She has performed in cathedrals, country churches and on beachfronts alike. She can be reached at her website [www.KateGrana.com](http://www.KateGrana.com), where you can hear samples of her work.

