

# Brass Music at Wedding Ceremonies? Debunking Some Myths

By SCOTT McCULLOUGH, Rum River Brass

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Many couples dismiss the idea of including live music in their wedding ceremony out of hand - especially brass music. But I have found that there are several misconceptions that need to be addressed:

## Live music is too expensive

It can be, but it doesn't have to be. There are so many options – number of performers, type of instruments, time involved, to name a few – that make it worth investigating. Many musicians will negotiate and work within your budget. University music students can be excellent players, and they are often very eager to play for a bargain rate. The bottom line is do you want to cut corners on this very special and memorable part of your day?

## Live music is hard to coordinate

Musicians are trained to perform on cue, to follow a program, and to stay flexible depending on the situation. They are used to working with wedding planners, brides or anyone who has taken the role of coordinator.

## Brass music is too loud for a wedding ceremony

Brass instruments have a remarkable dynamic range, and a good player or group can play very softly. Pachelbel's "Canon in D" and "Ave Maria," for example, can sound as rich and warm on brass as they can on strings. As truly acoustic instruments, brass require no amplification. In addition, brass instruments have the ability to be heard at an outdoor ceremony, where other instruments – notably strings – may have difficulty, even with amplification. And who can imagine a better way to announce the arrival of the bride than with a bold brass fanfare or processional?

## The repertoire for brass music is limited

Our brass quintet, the Rum River Brass, has an extensive library of wedding and church music that covers the "standards" plus much, much more. Arrangements are becoming more and more available as brass groups grow in popularity. And many musicians, including us, will also be happy to create a special arrangement of a favorite piece just for you.

Perhaps these points will cause you to think again about having live brass music for your wedding.



SCOTT McCULLOUGH, Rum River Brass

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