

FACTS AND QUESTIONS: Weddings, Cocktail, Dinner, Reception Music **Harris Academy of the Arts - Professional Musicians**



What do the musicians wear?

Musicians will wear concert black.

What styles of music do you play?

Depending on the selected ensemble type, our musicians can provide a wide range of musical styles including Classical, Easy Listening, Popular, Broadway, Blues, Jazz, as well as music from the 40s, 50s, 60s and 70s. Genres we do not provide: heavy rock, hip hop. Considering options? View [THEME AND STYLE IDEAS](#)

Can I request special songs?

YES, if the requested song(s) work well for the selected ensemble type (**maximum request: six songs**). We want your wedding day to have your personal music touch. If we do not have the songs you request in our music library and if it is available for purchase, we can order the music and add the cost to your final payment.

Do you perform for a Catholic Mass?

Yes, however we are only able to perform the prelude, special songs and postlude (we do not provide the liturgy music). We request as much detail as possible regarding verbal cues for our musical entrances.

Do you perform for same-sex weddings?

Absolutely! We are honored to share music for all celebrations.

I would like a friend to sing at my wedding. Can you accompany him or her on the piano?

We would love to! It's very meaningful to include friends and family during the wedding and we're delighted to help make that happen. We strongly recommend a rehearsal for your singer/instrumentalist with our musician(s). Please refer to the [A LA CARTE SELECTIONS](#) for the current rehearsal rates.

How far in advance should I book my wedding music?

Typically, weddings are booked 8 – 12 months in advance. Popular wedding months (e.g., May, June, July, etc.) have a tendency to book a year or more in advance. It is not at all uncommon for us to book multiple weddings within one weekend. To ensure the desired ensemble for your day, the earlier you book, the better!

Do you have a minimum time for bookings?

The minimum booking time is one hour.

What if my wedding goes over the contracted time?

A professional HAA music consultant will work with you to determine the right amount of time to book for your wedding. If you find that you need additional time during the event, and the musician(s) are available, musician(s) can be hired to play extra. Please refer to our [A LA CARTE SELECTIONS](#) for overtime fees.

How do I reserve my wedding date?

We need two things to hold the date: 1) a signed contract, and 2) a deposit of half the total amount (non-refundable). The final payment is due 10 days before your wedding. To receive a sample contract, complete our [LET'S GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER](#) survey.

Do you accept credit cards?

Yes. You may call the HAA office at 402-423-7121 with your payment information.

Do you travel?

Yes, we do! Our professional performances have taken us to Omaha, Council Bluffs, York, Nebraska City, Loup City, Beatrice and many, many places in-between. We charge mileage for musician driver and passenger(s) at the [current IRS rate](#) for performances outside the Lincoln city limits.

Do you perform on holidays?

You bet. We realize that many special events occur on holidays. Please view [A LA CARTE SELECTIONS](#) for pricing information and details.

Where have your musicians previously performed?

A sampling of where our musical journeys have taken us can be viewed at the link [WHERE WE'VE PERFORMED](#)
And here is what our clients have to say: WEDDING TESTIMONIALS

FACTS AND QUESTIONS: (Continued)

Harris Academy of the Arts - Professional Musicians



Can I see a sample contract to learn more about pricing?

Absolutely! To receive a sample contract, simply fill out our [LET'S GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER](#) survey. Alternatively, view our [WEDDING PACKAGE OPTIONS](#) for additional pricing information.

Can I hear the group before I sign the contract?

We take great care to hire reputable, quality musician(s) as we want to ensure your event is professional and beautiful. While we understand the desire to hear the ensemble live before signing a contract, our professional musicians maintain varied schedules, many whom have full time careers outside of performing. Due to obvious logistic challenges, we can instead provide music samples of some of our musicians at [HAA MUSIC SAMPLES](#) on our [WEBSITE](#). If you have any concerns or questions about the specific musicians, please contact the wedding coordinator at musicians@harrisacademyofthearts.com or 402.423.7121. Additionally, please view comments from past clients. [WEDDING TESTIMONIALS](#)

Why is there an outdoor package?

Many performing musician(s) will not perform outdoors as there are many concerns and challenges to contend with, typically not considered by non-musicians. For HAA musician(s) the outdoor package is required in order to produce the best circumstances for musician(s) to perform their best, as well as protect a musician's biggest investments: their instrument and equipment. Read our [OUTDOOR EVENTS](#) flyer to learn more.

Do the musicians attend the wedding rehearsal?

Not typically. Collectively, our HAA musicians have experience playing for thousands of weddings. See [WHERE WE'VE PERFORMED](#) and [WEDDING TESTIMONIALS](#). Our musicians know how to make adjustments on the spot in order to make everything flow smoothly. If you would still like the musicians to attend the rehearsal, please inquire about availability. Refer to the [A LA CARTE SELECTIONS](#) for current rehearsal rates. Additional equipment rental charges may apply depending on the contracted ensemble (e.g. keyboard, sound, etc.).

When should I make my music selections?

Our goal is to have the music selections finalized no later than TWO (2) months before the wedding date. We will send an online questionnaire, [MY WEDDING MUSIC AND WEDDING DETAILS](#) for couples to fill out that includes a section for all the ceremony selections as well as other important information for the musician(s) on the day of the wedding. Changes in your choices can possibly be accommodated, dependent upon adequate preparation time for the musician(s).

What music am I responsible for choosing for my wedding?

Your homework will involve determining music preferences for the following portions of the wedding:

- Candle Lighting/Parents/Grandparents
- Wedding Party Entrance (attendants, flower girl/ring bearer)
- Bride(s) or Groom(s) Entrance
- Special Song(s) During the Ceremony (if desired)
- Announcement of Couple

The [MY WEDDING MUSIC AND WEDDING DETAILS](#) survey will aid in organizing and pulling together your choices.

As selecting music can be tough for some, we are happy to assist in providing ideas and examples of selections that we sense may fit your personality and preference styles. In creating a personalized wedding, we consider and evaluate your selected music, in addition to any information provided regarding styles of music you aspire to. In reviewing our library of music and considering the best quality of performance we can provide, we will help choose music that fits your [THEME AND STYLE IDEAS](#) for the remainder of the event (e.g., prelude, postlude, cocktail, dinner, reception, etc.) To hear some samples of songs, please visit our [HAA MUSIC SAMPLES](#) on our [WEBSITE](#).

FACTS AND QUESTIONS: (Continued)

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Do I need to make an appointment to meet with you and/or pick music?

Our professional musician's coordinator will meet with you FREE of charge, and/or conduct phone or skype interviews in order to put together a musician's timeline, and assist with the final details, as you complete and submit the [MY WEDDING MUSIC AND WEDDING DETAILS](#) form no later than TWO (2) months prior to the event. The coordinator will contact you THREE (3) months before your wedding, and you are most certainly welcome to initiate the music selection process earlier. You can contact our wedding coordinator via email at musicians@harrisacademyofthearts.com or via phone at 402.423.7121.

When will the musicians arrive on the day of the wedding?

Set up for classical ensembles (e.g., string quartet, violin duet, etc.) is minimal, so the musicians will arrive 15-30 minutes before their start time. For ensembles requiring more set up time (e.g., keyboard, guitar, sound system, tents, etc.) the musicians will arrive about one hour early. All ensembles will be tuned, in their seats and ready to play 10 minutes prior to start time.

What are the musician(s) needs on the day of the wedding?

Please provide armless, straight back chairs set up in the location the musician(s) will perform. We also appreciate when music stands are provided, but we can bring along our own when they are not available at the venue. Each ensemble should be allotted an ample amount of space (e.g., bows moving, music stand, sound system, keyboard, etc.). To learn more about [MUSICIAN WORKING CONDITIONS](#) please view this link.

What working conditions need to be considered for the musician(s)?

Things most take for granted or do not even consider, may mean a world of difference to musicians as they strive to provide a top quality performance for your special day. Elbow room, large instruments, bows moving across the strings, bulky equipment, proximity to electrical source, sun in the eyes, extreme temperatures, bugs, perfumes, shelter from wind so we can read the music, adequate lighting, clear view of physical cues and key individuals in the wedding, and much more. To learn more, view [MUSICIAN WORKING CONDITIONS](#)

How will the musicians know when to start playing the ceremony music?

The musicians will discuss cues with the officiant, wedding coordinator or another designated contact. They will work together to ensure everything goes smoothly. You will communicate these details via the [MY WEDDING MUSIC AND WEDDING DETAILS](#) form.

Do the musicians take breaks?

If the musician(s) play longer than 2.5 hours, they will take a 15 minute break after 1.5 hours. For each additional hour performed thereafter, musician(s) will break for 10 minutes.

What does doubling mean?

Often musicians are asked to perform double talents or instruments (e.g., voice/guitar, violin/viola, violin/piano; etc.). Two talents involve twice the fun and time in preparation. See [A LA CARTE SELECTIONS](#) for more information.

What expenses does a professional musician have?

There are many behind the scenes, little-known expenses for a professional musician. To learn more, view [EXPENSES OF A PROFESSIONAL MUSICIAN](#)

Do the musicians accept tips?

Certainly tips are not mandatory. However, as with all types of professional services, tips are welcome and greatly appreciated.