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Wedding Masic Offers Many Options

"The problem of music has since 'music." Donald Meminger, chairman of the diocesan music commission, member, of the organist committee, director of the organisttraining program, director of music at Sacred Heart Cathedral, the changes and conflicts in the area of wedding music.

He said he opposes church mandates governing wedding music and favors music "to turn a couple on.

"A young couple should never be told that they can't do something," even a white list indicating appropriate pieces, if it limited selection, would be intolerable, negative and Meminger said.

Most cour are, unaware of the many options available. "Many are surprised to learn there's more 'an one wedding march. There are literally hundreds of marches!" Meminger continued. Wagner's Wedding March (Here Comes the Bride) is used only 25 to 30 per cent of the time. Mendelssohn's march from Midsummer Night's Dream is now the most popular and is the processional in 80 per cent of the weddings in the dioceses

The music director recommended that couples meet with their church organist a year to six months prior to the wedding. The organist should be familiar with attitudes of church staff and with liturgy — "music is liturgy" and be able to think in terms of prayer and celebration. In the interview with the couple he should learn their preferences, play excerpts, offer alternatives, explain op-

Parish

The marriage should take place in the parish of the bride; for a justifying reason it may take place inthe groom's parish Permission must be obtained from the pastor of the bride or groom to be married in another church*

Selecting music is not like selecting a gown, Meminger pointed out Plans develop gradually, but should be definite at least three months before the wedding 'so that' soloists and performers can practice. "We have to stop this antagonist trend and member of the liturgy of couples approaching the commission, alked recently of organist three days before the organist three days before the ceremony saying, This is what we want! Musicians have to practice."

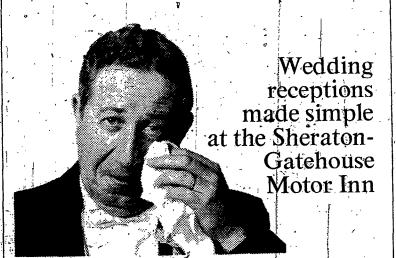
> Popular music in church used to disturb' Meminger, but he admitted he has changed, "if it's done tastefully and sedately." He expressed reservations about popular music during the canon or eucharistic prayer, however. Again he stressed that couples:

should be made aware of the many options here.

Folk masses are acceptable, but a theme is important Mr. Memingersuggested themes such as "Rejoîce" or "Enter." performances should be well: Meminger said that the many objections to organ and guitar together probably result from poor guitar performances.

Prayerful music before the service and community singing can help to prepare and involve the guest in the ceremony, he suggested.

"Most of all one has to remember that in the past 10 or 11 years Catholics have really changed. It's been great!

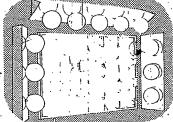


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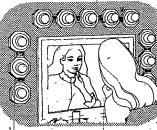


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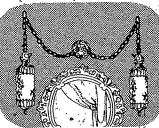
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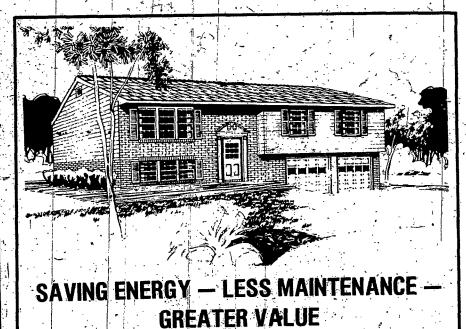


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