

# GoldenIsles

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# 21

**NEW THINGS**  
to do in the  
**NEW YEAR**

CALIFORNIA WINE COUNTRY  
NEW MONEY RULES  
NEW YEAR, NEW YOU

**NEW HOPE:** Behind the Headlines, PART II

# THE Suite PROCESSIONAL

BY J.M. LACEY

It's the grandest entrance a woman is ever likely to make into a room, the one moment in her life when all eyes are on her and her alone. The bride's walk down the aisle and into the arms of her beloved is an event deserving of a bit of fanfare, the pomp and circumstance of a classical score.

Granted, most classical composers didn't write their most popular pieces of music to serve as wedding processionals. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart composed *Exsultate Jubilate, K165* when he was barely 17, a rush job following the opening of his opera *Lucio Silla* on Dec. 26, 1772. He wrote *Exsultate* for Venanzio Rauzzini (1746-1810), a castrato (male soprano) who sang the piece on Jan. 17, 1773. The familiar final movement, *Alleluia*, is sung during weddings today by female sopranos.

Though some may think of today's bridal processionals performed to such classical standards as Wagner's *Bridal Chorus* from his opera, *Lohengrin*, or Mendelssohn's *Wedding March* from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, other popular classical pieces have set the stage for the wedding and its marches.

Local musicians name the top five favorites of Golden Isles brides:

*Trumpet Voluntary*, Jeremiah Clarke (ca. 1673-1707), Baroque

Willie Hammett, principal trumpet player for the Coastal Symphony of Georgia and private music teacher in Brunswick, says the *Trumpet Voluntary* is his favorite piece to play.

"It's dignified and a processional kind of music," he says. Willie, who's performed professionally for over 20 years, says the piece "lends itself to large and small churches."

*Trumpet Voluntary*, written for organ and known also as *Prince of Denmark's March*, was erroneously attributed to Henry Purcell, another organist at the Chapel Royal with Clarke.

Generally performed during Anglican mass, it is a piece that is rich in spirit and popular for today's bridal processional.

*Canon and Gigue in D*, Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706), Baroque

"Walking in is almost always Pachelbel's *Canon*," says Ann Merwin, principal flute player for the Coastal Symphony of Georgia and private music teacher for 35 years in St. Marys.

Pachelbel, who wrote chamber, choral and organ music, is best known for his *Canon in D*. The work has become one of the best-loved pieces of Baroque music. *Canon* is based on the structure of a canon where one melody begins, followed by a specific interval of time by the same melody note for note. Think: *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*.

*The Lord's Prayer*, Albert Hay Malotte (1895-1964), Modern

Soprano Rhonda Hambright of St. Simons Island and director of music at the St. Simons Island Presbyterian Church, says *The Lord's Prayer* is the most requested piece of music she's asked to perform.

"It's appropriate at weddings due to the fact that some of the guests may not know the Lord's Prayer well enough to recite it during the ceremony."

Rhonda, who's been performing for the last 36 years, says she loves to sing the piece.

"It feels good in my voice and is inspirational to those who hear me sing it, I'm told."

American Composer Malotte wrote the piece in 1935 and it appeared in several movies, including *Stage Door Canteen* (1943), for which the composer went uncredited.

*Air on the G String*, Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), Baroque

Ann Merwin, who's been performing for the last 20 years and performed at Carnegie Hall in 2008 with the University of North Florida Wind Ensemble, admits her favorite is Bach's *Air*.

Part of Bach's *Suite no. 3 in D Major* for orchestra, *Air* is written in cantabile (singing). The piece gained immense popularity when Violinist August Wilhelm created an arrangement played solely on the fourth (G) string of the violin.

*Ode to Joy*, Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827), Classical

Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* from his *Symphony no. 9 in D minor* is another unique variation for wedding music.

For decades, Beethoven wanted to write a piece of music based on Poet Frederick Schiller's poem *An die Freude* (Ode to Joy), a glorified drinking song with a strong humanistic message.

In the end, Beethoven used only half of Schiller's poem and deleted drinking song references.

A softer version of this final movement in his symphony is performed at weddings. ☐

Other popular pieces recommended by the experts:

Ann:

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*, J.S. Bach  
*Water Music Suite: Air*, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759), Baroque

Willie:

*Trumpet Tune*, Henry Purcell (1659-1695), Baroque  
*Allegro from Trumpet Suite in D*, Handel  
*Rondeau*, Jean-Joseph Mouret (1682-1738), Baroque

Rhonda:

*Let the Bright Seraphim*, Handel  
*Ave Maria*, Franz Schubert (1797-1828), Early Romantic  
*Alleluia*, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791), Classical

**J.M. Lacey** is a professional freelance writer. Her articles focus on business, social development, the arts, health, fashion and Victorian homes. Visit her Web site at [jmlacey.com](http://jmlacey.com).



Don Thompson

## MUSIC RESOURCES FOR BRIDES

Recordings:

Weddingmusic101.com  
Myweddingmusic.com  
Amazon.com  
Naxos.com