

Frequently Asked Questions/Terms and Conditions of the Grace Quartet

What is a string quartet?

A string quartet is an ensemble of four instruments -- a first violin, a second violin, a viola (a slightly larger, deeper sounding version of a violin), and a cello.

How will a string quartet fit into a wedding celebration?

The sound of a string quartet is smooth, romantic, and refined. Whether your event is an intimate gathering or is a lavish formal affair, music can be used to create an elegant atmosphere throughout your special day and will make an impression that will last long after the wedding celebration is over. Our quartet can provide all the necessary music for a wonderful wedding celebration, or can accompany trumpets, soloists, piano, and organ if you desire.

Our quartet is designed differently than other quartets to make your wedding ceremony smooth and seamless. Michelle (the quartet manager) will work with you to plan the music for your wedding and you will receive a list of the music that the quartet currently has available. She will attend the rehearsal to ensure entrances on the day of your wedding are smooth. Finally, the quartet is wired through a walkie-talkie system with headsets that allows Michelle to cue all entrances and selections throughout the ceremony. Please note that a string quartet must find cadences in the music so that stopping is fluid rather than abrupt. This means there may be some instances when a piece plays for a few measures more than you might expect. The result is a more natural-sounding conclusion to the music.

A basic wedding service usually contains the following: The quartet provides twenty to thirty minutes of *prelude music* while the guests are arriving and being seated. Special music can be used to signal the beginning of the wedding ceremony as parents and family members are seated and for the candle bearers.

Processional music is played for the attendants followed by the bride's own processional selection. During the ceremony, music is often played at the lighting of the unity candle, during a rose presentation, during communion, or simply as a meditation.

A lively *recessional* ends the ceremony and sends the newlyweds out triumphantly. Following the ceremony, the mood can quickly change for the reception with light, festive music as people have their first refreshments. Later, during a meal, music is proper with every menu. Quieter musical selections are nice as people eat and converse at lunch or dinner.

Booking the Grace Quartet:

To contact us, please e-mail Michelle Wilson at gracequartet@cox.net or call (316) 942-3930.

When you decide that the Grace Quartet is exactly what you want for your event, please call Michelle and she will discuss our contracting procedure. She will quickly mail out a copy of the contract. Please read, sign, keep a copy, and return the original along with a 25% deposit. Your date and time will be held for 2 weeks from the day the contract is mailed to you. By signing, dating, and submitting a deposit you are agreeing to the terms and conditions of the Grace Quartet based on this FAQ.

Our Rates:

Basic Wedding (as described above) - **indoors:** \$460.00

Basic Wedding (as described above) - **outdoors:** \$500.00

Extended service time while Bride & Groom dismiss rows or for receiving line out of church: \$50.00

Reception (following ceremony): \$220.00 per hour with a 5 minute break between each hour

Outside the Wichita City Limits (Andale, Andover, Bel Aire, Colwich, Derby, Goddard, Haysville, Maize, Park City and Valley Center): Travel surcharge of \$20.00

Outside the above ten locations up to 30 miles: \$40.00 plus state rate mileage (charged to and from rehearsal and wedding)

Over 30 miles outside of Wichita, KS: rates will be negotiated based on location

Extras (which lengthen time commitment and additional cost):

Rehearsal with soloist and/or other musician (requires arrival approximately 1 hour prior to event) \$125.00

Rehearsal with soloist and/or other musician (requires outside event rehearsal time) \$250.00

Special Music Requests:

Purchased Music: retail cost of music, plus shipping if applicable

Music Arranging: \$50.00 per song (Piano sheet music provided by client with written permission from copyright holder. Client is responsible for paying any royalties to the copyright holder.)

What does Grace Quartet need on the day of the wedding?

The quartet needs four chairs with flat seats and no arms. For outdoor weddings, you need to provide a canopy that will protect the quartet against inclement weather, sun, birds, and trees.

Will the Grace Quartet play my outdoor wedding?

An outdoor wedding can be a very beautiful and elegant event. It can also have potential problems depending on the weather the day of the wedding. Wood/string instruments are subject to going out of tune and becoming damaged beyond repair if they are in high humidity, high heat, or sun. They can also be damaged if it is raining, snowing, or sleeting. These instruments range in value upwards of \$20,000 apiece. Therefore, it is the Grace Quartet's preference not to play any outdoor weddings especially in the months of June, July, and August.

If you really want an outdoor wedding and the Grace Quartet to accompany that ceremony, we advise you to look at the months of March, April, May, September, October, and November. These months do not normally have the high humidity and heat that can cause the most damage to wood/string instruments.

If you choose to contract with the Grace Quartet to play your outdoor wedding, you need to provide a canopy. This will protect the instruments from inclement weather, sun, birds and trees.

Please consider carefully when choosing an outdoor wedding as you will need a backup location on standby in case the weather is inclement the day of your ceremony.

How do you dress when you perform?

Standard quartet attire is full black.

How soon do we need to contract with the Grace Quartet to be assured of your availability?

You should contract as soon as the date and location of your ceremony are set. We book on a first come, first serve basis. Your date and time will be held for two weeks from the day the contract was mailed to you.

For what length of time do we need to contract you?

For weddings, we do not contract by strict time, but by event. The basic wedding as described above will cover up to 1½ hours of service (not including arrival time). This is sufficient time for most wedding ceremonies. We can also arrange to provide music for the events following the ceremony: receiving line, photos, appetizers, cocktail hour, reception, dinner, etc.

I have a vocalist and/or musician performing at my wedding. Can the quartet accompany them?

We often accompany vocalists or other musicians. The piece must be something that either has been arranged for quartet, or can easily be arranged for four instruments.

Rehearsal is required at least 1 hour prior to the start of the prelude and this will add an additional charge of \$125.00. If you are choosing multiple pieces for us to perform together, if the pieces are very difficult or are unfamiliar to us, or if we will be performing with an amateur who needs more practice time with us, we may require a longer rehearsal time. A longer rehearsal time may need to be outside of the day of the wedding and will cost \$250.00. These details need to be worked out in advance and clearly stated on the contract.

What if I need to postpone or cancel my wedding?

- In the event of a postponement or cancellation, any money paid is 100% refundable up to 30 days advanced notice.
- In the event of a postponement or cancellation, any money paid is 50% refundable up to 14 days advanced notice
- In the event of a postponement or cancellation, any money paid is non-refundable 13 days or less prior to the wedding.
- The quartet is not responsible for conditions beyond our control such as severe weather conditions. In this case, any money paid is 100% refundable.
- In no case shall the quartet's liability be more than the amount paid to the quartet.

What other questions do you have?

Our quartet members have been playing for weddings and parties for years. Our manager has been servicing brides for over five years and is happy to provide you with information and to offer her expertise and experience as you plan and prepare for your special day.

Please see the Grace Quartet member biographies on the website www.gracequartet.com for more information regarding them personally.