
CITY SIX STRINGS

Guide for Booking and Beyond



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City Six Strings was founded in 2020 by violinist Sarah Becker and cellist McKinley Glasser. Since then, we’ve grown to accommodate performances at 200-300 events per year throughout Ohio. Though we specialize in weddings, we also play for fundraisers, house parties, corporate events, and any function that could use the sound of strings (all of them!)

Our musicians are classically trained, holding degrees and certificates from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, Eastman School of Music, Cleveland Institute of Music, Carnegie Mellon University, and more. Despite our classical backgrounds, we are comfortable in any genre; our members have appeared with acts from the Trans-Siberian Orchestra to Machine Gun Kelly to Michael Bublé on stages from Severance Hall to London’s West End.

We believe in creating the perfect soundtrack for your special day. With our modular ensemble and customizable playlists, we’ve found that strings can work for any event and musical taste. Read on for more information on the choices you’ll make when booking us, the details of choosing a playlist, and answers to some questions you may have. As always, feel free to reach out on our website, social media, or email. Cheers!

Sarah and McKinley

From Booking to Recessional

You've reached out through our website, social media, or another platform and asked about our availability and services. Yay! Here's what your time with us might look like:

1 week after booking

After we've sent you your electronic contract and Square invoice, you have one week to place a nonrefundable deposit to hold your date. From then on, we'll be on hand if you need advice on anything from song selection to musician outfits.

1 month before wedding

Things are getting real! This is a good time to review your contract and music choices if it's been a while. It's also the last chance for you to change your ensemble size or to cancel without a fee.

2 weeks before wedding

Please make sure your contract is finalized! This is the latest we'll start arranging and rehearsing your song requests.

1 week before wedding

At this point, the final balance is due and we'll do a last check-in about locations, times, and other details.

1 hour before wedding

It's almost showtime! We'll arrive 15-30 minutes ahead of our prelude time to set up.

30 minutes before wedding

As your guests begin to arrive, we start playing prelude music to set the tone.

1-2 minutes before wedding

We'll finish our last song of the prelude and look to your wedding planner or wedding party for our cue to begin the processionals

Processionals

The big moment is finally here! You and your wedding party will walk in to 1-3 different songs of your choice (family, bridal party, bride). We take our cues from you, so no need to worry! Just do your thing and it'll be magical.

Ceremony

If you need background music for a ritual like a sand ceremony, just let us know — we'll be there! And if not — we'll still be there!

Recessional

Once your officiant introduces you as a couple and sends you back down the aisle, that's our cue! We'll play you out to your own personal soundtrack.

Postlude and beyond

As your guests leave, we'll play one or two more songs to usher them out. If we're sticking around for the cocktail hour, we'll relocate and get the party started! Afterward, if you've enjoyed working with us, please consider leaving a review on Google, GigSalad, or Facebook! It is always appreciated.

Choosing Your Ensemble

This is one of the first choices you'll make with us, and it comes down to sound and budget. In general, the more players, the louder the sound and the more complex the music. You'll get an almost-orchestral sound with a quartet (2 violins, viola, cello), just melody and bass line with the duo (violin and cello), and something in between with the trio (violin, viola, cello). However, each musician raises the cost.

All ensembles can play the same songs and add the same elegance and attention to detail. Feel free to reach out to us or to check with the venue for their recommendation on ensemble size.

	DUO (\$500)	TRIO (\$750)	QUARTET (\$1000)
Custom music	✓	✓	✓
Coverage for prelude, ceremony, and postlude	✓	✓	✓
Can extend into cocktail hour	✓	✓	✓
Intimate events (<50 guests)	✓	✓	
Moderate events (50-150 guests)	✓	✓	✓
Large events (150+ guests)		✓	✓
Recommended for outdoor events		✓	✓
Requires amplification	in large outdoor spaces, stadiums, etc	rarely	rarely



“It was the best decision without a doubt! We opted for a duo and the sound of the violin and cello was beautiful and perfect. It was EXACTLY as we imagined it!”

- CRYSTAL B.

Choosing Your Music

We offer fully customizable playlists for your ceremony. But which songs to pick? We always recommend choosing songs that have meaning to you as a couple, though there are some picks that never go out of style. You can always find an up-to-date version of our repertoire list at citysixstrings.com/repertoire.

Prelude

The half-hour of music we play while guests are being seated sets the atmosphere for the rest of the ceremony. People typically choose a genre (eg., classical, pop, or a mix of both) and let us draw from our repertoire list for the 10-15 songs we play while waiting for the ceremony to start.

Seating of the Parents

The parents and grandparents are the first people to process, and some people choose to honor them with a song. We find people tend to choose slower, more sentimental songs for this portion.

Examples: Air on the G String (Bach), Somewhere Over the Rainbow, Your Song (Elton John)

Bridal Party

The bridesmaids, groomsmen, ring bearers, and flower girls typically enter to a more upbeat tune.

Examples: Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (Bach), Here Comes the Sun (Beatles), Halo (Beyonce)

Bride

The big moment! Brides can really make this moment their own with a majestic, tender, or timeless melody.

Examples: Canon in D (Pachelbel), A Thousand Years (Christina Perri), Can't Help Falling in Love (Elvis)

Mid-Ceremony

Some couples like to have musical accompaniment to rituals like a sand ceremony, unity candle, or cord tying. Most people choose something quiet and contemplative.

Examples: Arioso (Bach), Perfect (Ed Sheeran), The Swan (Saint-Saens)

Recessional

As soon as your officiant finishes with "And now introducing, for the very first time...!" we launch into the upbeat, energetic processional.

Examples: Hornpipe (Handel), Viva la Vida (Coldplay), Best Day of My Life (American Authors)

Postlude/Cocktail Hour

Just like the prelude, we'll stick to a genre that you choose, but will pick the more up-tempo selections from our repertoire list to set up the party atmosphere.



Our Policies

Rehearsal

We take all our cues from you, so if you know what we're doing, we know what we're doing! If you provide accurate wedding party information, we'll have all we need to start and stop at the right time. Because of this, we rarely attend wedding rehearsals. We can do so for a fee if you find it absolutely necessary.

Collaboration

We are happy to perform with musicians you have hired separately from us, or with your talented friends and family. Please share their contact info with us so we can coordinate sheet music and other details early. We typically rehearse with them on-site the day of the wedding.

Catholic Masses

Our musicians are experienced with full masses (with communion) and will happily play them. That being said, we will only do so if the church's music director or keyboardist is on hand to coordinate and provide liturgical music. Otherwise, we'll just play the wedding parts (processionals, etc.)

Recordings

We do offer custom recordings of your ceremony music before or after the event, though this is subject to a separate fee.

Weather

Unfortunately, our instruments are fragile — some are over a hundred years old! That means we can't play outside in direct sunlight (melts our varnish), precipitation (dissolves our glue), or cold weather below 55F (cracks our wood). That's why we ask for cover or a backup plan if the weather looks iffy — and reserve the right to cut and run if we're getting rained on or relocate if we're getting frozen.

Payment

We manage all our payment electronically through Square unless alternate arrangements have been made. Please adhere to the payment schedule laid out in the contract (deposit within one week of booking, balance one week before wedding). If necessary, we can plan for payment in other installments.

Gratuity

Never expected, always appreciated! Like most wedding professionals, we're over the moon when someone thinks we performed well and gives us a tip. We've found the most common amounts are \$20-\$50 per musician.

Cancellation

Things happen, plans change, we understand! Just let us know as soon as possible. There is a fee of \$200 for cancellations less than one month in advance. Your deposit is unfortunately nonrefundable.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I request songs from off the repertoire list?

Yes, of course! We arrange most of our music in-house, and therefore are able to offer custom music for the ceremony (processionals, mid-ceremony, recessionals) free of charge. For prelude, postlude, and cocktail hour music, though, we will assess you a fee of \$25 per arrangement.

Don't I need to pick a song of a certain length?

No, actually! Part of our job is ending songs gracefully. We ask for details like the number of parents and bridal party size so that we know when to transition into the next part of the ceremony. Simply put: When the action starts, we start. When you stop at the end of the aisle, we end on a lovely cadence. If you want us to start at a particular part of the song or skip a part, just let us know in the contract.

What will you wear?

Musicians typically wear either concert black or wedding-guest attire. If you have a specific preference, please let us know.

Do we need to provide a vendor meal?

Unlike photographers or DJs, we're usually not present all night. That being said, if you've booked us for a longer time (anything longer than wedding and cocktail hour), we appreciate being offered a meal.

Do you play same-sex weddings?

Of course!

Do you play Jewish/Indian/Persian/other cultural weddings?

We have experience with all of these! That being said, each wedding is unique, so we will work with you to ensure your experience is exactly as you want it.

What do I need to do for City Six Strings before the big day?

We're self-starters and our job is pretty hands-off, but we do ask for a few things:

Final Checklist

- A (preferably armless) chair for each performer
 - If relocating for a cocktail hour, we'll need chairs there too!
- Indoor backup plan
- Covered or shaded location
- Completed contract/music choices