

**American Guild of Organists, Greater Hartford Chapter  
Professional Concerns Guidelines: May 2004**

**Weddings and Funerals/Memorial Services**

The music for weddings and funerals, especially when texts are concerned, expresses the denomination's theological views of these transitions in life. The musician and clergy can provide guidelines for appropriate music for these services.

Since weddings and funerals are services of worship, it is expected the resident musician has the right of first refusal regarding playing at these services. If the resident musician is not available, he or she will secure or approve a substitute. Guest musicians may play only with the approval of the resident musician.

If special music is requested for these services, published copies of the music should be given to the musician several weeks in advance to allow adequate preparation time. The musician reserves the right to refuse to perform from illegally photocopied music.

Wedding couples should pay the organist before the ceremony. When a funeral home arranges for a funeral or memorial service, the musician and funeral director must have a clear understanding as to payment of the musician's fee. In the case of memorial services, the staff of the church usually tells the family of the deceased the fees incurred and the method of payment. To simplify the process, many churches define procedures regarding the payment of wedding, funeral, and memorial service fees. These procedures eliminate confusion between clergy, staff, musician and wedding couples or funeral homes.

Recommended Fees

- Wedding Service - \$175-\$400 for a consultation with the couple and the service.
- Wedding Rehearsal - \$75-\$125 per hour.
- Funeral or Memorial Service - \$125-\$250.
- Funeral or Memorial Service Rehearsal - \$50-\$125 per hour.
- Additional Rehearsals with Instrumentalists and/or Soloists - \$50-\$75 per hour.

**Substitute Musicians**

The church budget should include funds for payment of a substitute during the musician's vacation, approved leaves of absence, study leave and sick leave. During any absences beyond those stipulated in the contract or duties agreed upon by both the church and the musician, the musician will arrange for payment of the substitute.

The amounts listed below are considered minimum fees and should be adjusted upward in accordance with the musician's experience and training. Travel time, music rehearsal, practice on the church's organ and time between services should also be taken into account when determining fees. Expectations should be clear for and to interim musicians. For the names of musicians available in the Greater Hartford area, please call the Substitute List Contact, John Coghill at 242-2998.

Recommended Fees

- Single service - Organist or Director only, \$125-\$250.
- Additional services (using the same music) - Organist or Director only, \$75-\$150
- Single service - Organist/Choir Director combination, \$175-\$300.
- Choir rehearsal during the week - Organist/Choir Director combination, \$100-150
- Choir rehearsal during the week - Accompanist only, \$65-\$100.