

Minimum Compensation Guidelines for

WEDDINGS, FUNERALS, AND SUBSTITUTE SERVICES

American Guild of Organists, Southeast Minnesota Chapter (Fall 2008)

The regular organist of a church shall play for all weddings and funerals or memorial services held in the employing institution. If the regular organist is unavailable for these services, a substitute organist is selected by the regular organist. If the regular organist is available and an outside organist is requested by the family, the regular organist must approve the request.

WEDDING AND FUNERAL FEE RECOMMENDATIONS	
Type of Service Rendered	Suggested minimum compensation
<i>For weddings, payment is due one week before services rendered</i>	
WEDDING SERVICE Includes a scheduled one-hour service-planning consultation, a 15-minute organ prelude, processional and recessional/postlude music, accompaniment of soloists/instrumentalists during the service, brief rehearsal preceding the service, and other music requisite to the service or liturgy.	\$175
WEDDING REHEARSAL Wedding party; one hour.	\$50
REHEARSAL with SOLOISTS/INSTRUMENTALISTS, ADDITIONAL PREPARATION TIME for weddings Per hour; other than the wedding rehearsal or the <i>brief</i> rehearsal preceding the ceremony.	\$50
FUNERALS & MEMORIAL SERVICES (<i>paid at time of services rendered</i>) The funeral home should be responsible for notifying the family of this fee. Includes personal consultation with the family, special music preparation, and rehearsal with soloists aside from a brief rehearsal preceding the service.	\$125

Substitutes are generally considered to be independent contractors. The church music budget should include funds for payment of a substitute during the musician's vacation, approved leaves of absence, study leave, and sick leave. This will be paid by the church. For time away beyond that stipulated in the contract, the substitute will be paid by the musician. **Payment to a substitute should be made at the time services are provided unless prior arrangements are made.**

SUBSTITUTE FEE RECOMMENDATIONS	
Type of Service Rendered	Suggested minimum compensation
CHURCH SERVICE, Organist only Includes organ practice (average preparation 5-10 hours), conference with regular organist and clergy, the service (with liturgy, prelude and postlude music), and <i>brief</i> rehearsal with a cantor/soloist/ensemble.	\$125
CHURCH SERVICE/Organist/Choir Director Includes the same duties as listed above and choir rehearsal before the service.	\$200
ADDITIONAL DUPLICATE SERVICE Per additional consecutive identical service. A duplicate service on another day should be compensated at the rate of a first service.	\$200 (organist only), \$250 (organist/choir director)
ADDITIONAL CHOIR (soloist/cantor, ensemble) REHEARSAL	Included in above fees