



WEDDING ADVICE – Choosing a Wedding DJ or Hiring a Band for Your Wedding Reception

The purpose of this guide is for general guidance only.

It is true that nothing will liven-up your wedding like the right entertainment!
Without, your well-planned Reception may actually turn out rather disappointing.

Choosing a Wedding DJ or hiring a band for your Wedding Reception is actually one of the most important tasks on your Wedding planner!

We hope that by following some of our advice will help ensure that your hired Wedding DJ or band will compliment your wedding day.

Essentially, to avoid Wedding Reception Entertainment disasters means having to do your homework! Nobody will want to end up with a load of wannabe X Factor rejects or uninspiring and inexperienced DJ who plays just what they want! The experienced professionals will know which songs are appropriate to play, will interact and encourage your guests to feel included.

So here is advice on choosing a Wedding DJ or Hiring a Band for Your Wedding Reception.

Get To Know Your Entertainment Performer!

Because a Wedding is a one off special event, instead of opting for the first service you speak to, interview several services. Ultimately, you want to ensure that the performer will set the tone and mood YOU want at YOUR Wedding Reception.

Face to face meetings should help you determine if the performers and you personalities blend well.

Do not hesitate to ask how many weddings they have performed at, how much experience they have, where they have worked.

You'll want to determine if the performer is ideal and professional enough for your guests. Naturally, you'll require a certain level of etiquette from the Wedding DJ or band so look for the courteous, well dressed and of course well groomed!

If you book your entertainment through a company, do confirm who exactly will be performing at YOUR Wedding Reception, as it has been known for a company to switch entertainer's last minute. Get everything confirmed in writing including the name of the entertainer supplied.

If possible, try to watch them perform live at a local venue or ask if they are performing at any public venues.

Ask if there are any promotional videos available of the performer's presentation, announcements, etc – especially at a wedding function.

If you go through a company, make sure you know who will perform at your wedding. Some companies represent a stable of musicians and DJs, and they choose the individual(s) right for your occasion. Companies often use this opportunity to do a bait and switch routine.

Your Wedding – Your Songs

You'll want to ensure that the DJ or band you hire plays the type and style of music you like!

Experienced professionals will have a large list of songs of all variety and genres, ranging from current popular hits to the classics.

If the performer can not provide you examples of their song list, it may be best to look for someone else because you should be able to select the songs YOU want for YOUR wedding! This way, you can identify which songs are off limits and specify must-have songs!

Ask if the Wedding DJ or band accept music requests on the night. Music requests can offer a lot of fun during a wedding reception. If your performer will not accept music requests, there is the chance that guests may feel excluded / that they cannot participate.

It's is worth keeping in mind that the whole performance is much more than just song selection. You'll need to ensure that the performer you hire can pronounce any names of particular individuals invited to your Wedding Reception, and the performer should welcome your time to address first and last names as required to ensure precise announcement, especially on introductions!

How Important is Equipment?

Although usually left to the performer to determine, because of such an important day, you'll need assurance that the Wedding DJ or band's sound system can handle the size of your venue with no problems.

Obviously, there is a difference between a Hi Fi and a system with the output required to entertain your guests! Professional bands and Wedding DJs should have professional equipment.

Should you require effect or mood lighting, enquire if these elements are part of the performer's setup?

Overall, the wedding entertainment sets the tone for your reception – therefore never underestimate the importance of finding the right performer who is able to create the right mood.

Written for the DJ Associates Disc Jockey Association (also known as 'DJ@') <http://www.djassociates.org> with content contributed from Dan Dukesy – <http://www.pimlicoentertainment.co.uk> and Chris Pointon – <http://www.ultimateroadshow.co.uk> and DJU <http://www.dj-forum.co.uk>

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