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A Brief History Of Las Vegas

By Adel Awwad

Las Vegas can be found in the western United States and is located in the state of Nevada. Las

Vegas, Spanish for 'The Meadows', was originally discovered in 1829 by a party of explorers led by Antonio Armijo, a Mexican trader searching for a route to Los Angeles. Before the discovery of the valley the route, Las Vegas was referred to as the 'journey of death'. However, exploration for water revealed an abundance of springs in the valley that reduced the journey by several days.

Las Vegas remained virtually unknown until 1844, when explorer John C. Fremont, made an entry in his travel log detailing how his expedition camped at the springs. Nevertheless, it was another ten years before Las Vegas became a permanent settlement for Mormon missionaries from Salt Lake City. They built a fort to create a mail stop between Los Angeles and Salt Lake City, becoming the first non-Indian settlement to do so. It was also the Mormons' intention to teach farming to the Paiute Indians. However, in 1857 this was abandoned when the Paiutes raided the fort and rejected their teachings.

In 1902, U.S. Senator William Clark from Montana bought the rights to the Mormon settlement, along with water rights and 2,000 acres of land. It was his intention to develop a town and he managed to construct a railroad for steam locomotives.

The town was officially founded in 1905 and incorporated in 1911 with a population of only 800. Initially strict anti-gambling laws governed the state of Nevada but this all changed in 1931 when gambling was legalized throughout the state of Nevada. That same year divorce laws were liberalized in Nevada, making Las Vegas the place to obtain a divorce after only six weeks of residency.

It was after World War II that Las Vegas began to develop its reputation of 'Sin City'. Hotels and casinos were developed and entertainment and tourism became the valley's largest employer. Accordingly, by the 1960s wealthy businessmen were being attracted to the city. Billionaire Kirk Kerkorian was a major player in developing the modern city; he bought the Flamingo and in 1968 opened the biggest hotel in the world, the International Hotel.

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Now, a hundred years after its conception, Las Vegas is one of the largest cities of the 20th Century with a population exceeding two million. Wonderful resorts are still being created, all bigger and more luxurious than ever. Finally, Las Vegas remains the strongest contender for the world's major international tourist attraction.

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String Quartet vs. Jazz for Your Las Vegas Wedding Music

By Renae Judkins

Las Vegas weddings have been known for their tackiness as long as Las Vegas drive thru weddings have existed, but Las Vegas weddings are quickly becoming more elegant with brides spending more on their Las Vegas nuptials. With this includes their choice of Las Vegas wedding music and Las Vegas wedding musicians.

We spoke with Chandler Judkins, president of Las Vegas Wedding Music, the number one live musician contracting company in Las Vegas and he had a lot to say about a new trend among Las Vegas couples.

"Las Vegas couples aren't choosing string quartets as much as they used to," Judkins said. "Jazz is more of the choice for their Las Vegas wedding music."

The reason for choosing jazz more than strings for Las Vegas weddings is simple according to Judkins. "They want something different. That's usually why they're getting married in Las Vegas in the first place."

Strings are still a popular Las Vegas wedding music choice and oftentimes Las Vegas couple will pair up the two, having strings for the ceremony and jazz for the cocktail hour and reception afterward.

A Las Vegas jazz quartet can be the perfect solution to create elegance, class, dancing and swinging, and all at a reasonable price. Las Vegas Wedding Music's jazz groups start as low as \$500 for a few hours, and no minimum time is required. Las Vegas Wedding Music's musicians often show up to play for a 15 minute wedding ceremony and then go home.

Las Vegas Wedding Music is so flexible with price, timing, groups, song requests list and more because according to Judkins, music is his passion and he wants to share that passion through his company Las Vegas Wedding Music.

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"Couples getting married in Las Vegas often don't realize that live musicians can be contracted for as little as a Las Vegas dj can be hired," Judkins said. "Our goal here at Las Vegas Wedding Music is to promote live music. We want our brides to walk down the aisle to the real thing, not a distorted version of 'Canon in D.' "

Judkins is a professional musician himself and oftentimes plays with the Las Vegas jazz groups. Live sound demos of the Las Vegas string quartet and the Las Vegas jazz groups can be found at Las Vegas Wedding Music's site: [LVWeddingMusic \(dot\) com](http://LVWeddingMusic.com).

Las Vegas Wedding Music also offers other Las Vegas wedding music packages for couples getting married in Las Vegas who want something different for their Las Vegas wedding. Singers, harpists, top 40 bands, mariachi groups, impersonators and more are available.

Las Vegas Wedding Music can work with nearly any budget and their packages start as low as \$250.

Renaee earned her journalism degree from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

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