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Choosing A Live Band Or A DJ – Better Get It Right!

By Sarah Williams

The live band or DJ that you choose to entertain at your wedding can either enhance your wedding

or put a damper on the festivities. It is important to choose a live band or DJ who is capable of ensuring that the guests in attendance are having a great time. A great live band or DJ is able to sense the mood of the crowd and adapt to meet their mood and vibe in order to keep the party moving.

The first thing to consider is whether you want a live band or a DJ to perform at your wedding. There are a couple of things to consider when deciding between a live band or a DJ. The first thing is price. A DJ is likely to cost considerably less than a live band. A DJ is usually just one person or possibly two people while a band usually consists of an average of about five performers. Right there is where you typically see a rise in cost because the fee you see in bands is usually split between quite a few people and therefore higher than the fee for one or two DJs. Next you need to consider selection. Many bands that perform at weddings have a set list that is typically not as long as the list of recorded music that the DJ has on hand. While this may not seem important because there are not many songs played during the wedding it does come into play if guests request individual songs. The other thing to consider is that a DJ is capable of keeping the crowd entertained for the entire duration of the wedding. They usually even play light music while dinner is being served. Bands however usually play approximately 15 minute sets at a time and then take a break which could interrupt the flow of the wedding. When choosing between a band and a DJ it is important to consider these factors and decide which works best for you.

The most important tip for choosing a live band or DJ is to make sure that you have the opportunity to see them perform before you commit to their services. Most live bands and DJs that perform at weddings gain popularity through their performances at other weddings. The best way to find a live band or DJ that will do a great job at your wedding is to use a live band or DJ that you enjoyed at the wedding of a friend or family members.

In choosing a live band or DJ it is imperative that you ensure that your contract specifies the exact names of those who will be performing at your wedding. This is usually not a problem with a live band because they usually have the same members present at all of their performances. DJs on the other hand are a different story. Many DJs become so popular that they are unable to perform at all of their

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committed parties. In this case a DJ may offer your party to another DJ for a small finder's fee. In other words the DJ may essentially sell the right to perform at your party to another local DJ. Additionally a very popular DJ may also have a number of younger, less experienced DJs that sometimes work for him. If you suspect that this is the case, it is important to make sure that your contract specifies exactly who will be performing at your wedding.

You may find that there are a variety of live bands and DJs available for hire in your area. This could make choosing just one a difficult task. One great way to ensure that you are choosing a good live band or DJ is to seek recommendations from close friends or family members. If you didn't attend their wedding or don't remember their entertainment, ask them if they would recommend their live band or DJ. If they do come highly recommended, ask your friend or family member if you can borrow a copy of their wedding video. Pay special attention to the parts of the video where the guests are dancing and decide if you think the live band or DJ might work for your wedding.

Although you may be certain that you wish to hire a particular band or DJ but try to interview at least three to five potential candidates before making your final decision just for comparison. You may find you feel more comfortable with a service provider or that there is another band or DJ that suits your needs better than your previously preferred candidate. Finally, once you make your decision make sure you obtain a detailed contract that specifies all of the details of your wedding as well as all of your expectations.

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Tips On Choosing Your Wedding Reception Music

By George Meszaros

Because there is such musical variety available to brides and grooms, selecting your reception music might be difficult.

Before you do anything, you should answer the following questions:

What kind of music do you enjoy the most when you celebrate?

What kind of music would your guest enjoy the most? If there is a conflict between what the bride and groom and their wedding reception guests enjoy, a compromise might be necessary.

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Do you prefer live music, or a DJ? Can you afford a live band?

You should book your wedding band or DJ about the same time you reserve your wedding reception venue. Why? Because your reception music will greatly depend on your wedding reception venue. If you want to have live music for your wedding, you need to make sure it is allowed by the reception venue. You need to make sure you understand the venue's rules about music before you select your wedding reception venue.

If you elect to go with a wedding band, be sure to book early. Popular bands are often booked more than one year in advance. Saturdays during the busiest wedding months are especially busy for wedding bands, so you might need to book even more than one year in advance.

Before you book your wedding music provider, you should ask the following questions:

How long have they been in the wedding business? You should go with an experienced band or DJ. Experience will usually yield a better quality performance.

Do they have any references? (You should always check references.) If the band is unable to provide references, you should walk.

Do they play live, continuous music for the entire event?

Can they play the songs you want to hear? The more songs they can play the better. Bands usually have song lists of all the songs they can play.

Do they have a demo CD, so you can sample their music? Is it possible for you to see one of their performances? There is no substitute for seeing a band in action.

Can you communicate with the band, and do you feel comfortable interacting with them? Are they listening to you; are they enthusiastic? Remember, the band is there to make your party fun, not the other way around. You hire them to play the music you like not the music they like.

How many band members do you get and how many are singers?

How long do they normally play, and how often do they break and for how long?

Are they insured? You should demand at least liability insurance from the wedding band or DJ.

Put everything important you agree on in writing. The answers to the above questions should all be part of the written contract, which is an absolute must. You should also include the exact time the band starts and ends playing.

If you have to work with a smaller budget, you might want to book a DJ instead of a wedding band since they are less expensive than wedding bands. An experienced DJ can create a great atmosphere for your wedding reception; so don't be disappointed if you can't afford a wedding band.

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Remember to have fun; after all you are planning the most important and joyous day of your life!

George Meszaros

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