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Indian Brides and Grooms on the Internet

By Roopa Nair

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India is a diverse, multi-cultural country with people of various religions, communities and sects living together in harmony and peace. Each community has its own set of religious rituals, traditions and multitudes of customs inherited from ancestors. Arranged marriage is one such common custom handed down over generations. Arranged marriage has played an important role in Indian marriages. This concept is even today accepted by millions of Indians in India and abroad. Marriages, initiated by elders, were arranged with the help of an 'aunt' or the 'priest'. Over a period of time this has slowly transitioned from the marriage brokers to the newspapers and now onto the Internet.

Internet has revolutionized the way people communicate. Today, there are several matrimonial sites some aimed to a particular community/religion and some to the general public. These sites literally make the world seem a smaller place. The concept of online matrimonial has become increasingly popular because it gives people up-front, at the click of a mouse, access to thousands of eligible singles, which neither newspapers nor marriage bureaus can ever offer. It has tremendously expanded the reach of every marriageable individual by exposing him/her to the millions of eligible Indians who visit these sites. Increasingly, many individuals and families spend their valuable time online searching for the perfect partner for themselves or their loved ones. It is interesting to see that these sites are visited by conservative parents, relatives; who believe in the sanctity of arranged marriages and also by those for whom falling in love is the way to go.

<http://www.BridesandGroomsIndia.com> is a newly emerged, traditional matrimonial site, which understands the focus of the new age matrimonial net surfers and offers them several attractive services. It represents all major Indian languages and is a beautiful platform for people of diverse background to meet and unite. In the immediate future, BridesandGroomsIndia.com plans to offer its members personalized astrological services. These services include individual predictions, horoscope generation, horoscope matching and much more. The site welcomes its user's views and suggestions on the type of services they would like to be provided with.

It is interesting to see how the Indian marriage scene has changed over the years. Though Indians have become tech savvy and jumped on the Internet bandwagon to find the Mr./Mrs. Right, but still the

Indian customs, the traditions, the core values remain the same. BridesandGroomsIndia.com aims to unite millions of hearts and souls in the future.

The author is an computer professional and an Indian. The author is attempting to study the impact or the influence of Internet and technology on the lives of the Indian community.

String Quartets Still Outrank DJs in Class, Cost

By Renae C Judkins

While many brides are fretting over their wedding colors or centerpieces, they all have the same opinion regarding their wedding music.

String quartets are the number one choice of brides and grooms according to Chandler Judkins, owner of the most popular musician contractor company in Las Vegas called Las Vegas Wedding Music.

Las Vegas Wedding Music receives more requests for string quartets than any other music group, even though they offer dozens of options including jazz quartets, piano soloists, big bands, and more.

"Our string quartets alone have doubled, if not, tripled within the last two years," Judkins said. "Las Vegas is fast becoming an elegant city to be married in and that means, more string quartets."

DJs are known for their affordability and usually nothing more. So couples on a budget might hire a DJ to save a dime, but they are oftentimes disappointed in the service and atmosphere. Those same brides and grooms are quick to state that if they had the funds, a string quartet would be their number one choice of wedding music.

However, string quartets are also starting to outrank DJs in costs. In Las Vegas, DJ costs are skyrocketing and in many major wedding chapels, couples have to foot a \$2,000 to \$5,000 bill. Judkins thinks this is outrageous.

"Las Vegas Wedding Music will never gouge couples to make a buck just because this is Las Vegas," Judkins said. "We want to promote live music so we keep our prices as low as possible. Any string quartet hired for a wedding should cost less than \$1,000 for a few hours of performing, and if the quartet is only for the ceremony, it should cost less than \$800."

Judkins said that couples should check prices before making a commitment on their wedding music. Couples should also be careful because sometimes wedding coordinators aren't always honest about live musician prices.

"It's easier for wedding coordinators to use the same DJ for every wedding, so they don't have to bother finding a band," Judkins said. "So many times they state that a string quartet will cost a lot more because of the time they will end up putting in to find that string quartet. They often take a cut off the musician's price because they have to work to find the perfect band."

Judkins advises brides to find their own string quartet through a wedding musician contractor. That way they know the musicians will show up, they can hear sound demos of the band, and brides won't have to pay a coordinator hidden costs to do the work for them.

To see an example of a musician contractor's site, go to

"Those who come to me are the brides and grooms who truly know that nothing compares to live music for their wedding," Judkins said. "No matter what DJs offer, they can never offer the same benefits that

a live string quartet offers."

Renaee earned her journalism degree from the University of Nevada Las Vegas. She is currently a wedding consultant for



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