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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.

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"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

[" target="_blank">www.LVWeddingMusic.com](http://www.LVWeddingMusic.com).

"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."

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

<http://www.vegaswedlock.com>

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Inexpensive, Classy Substitutes for a String Quartet

By Renaë C Judkins

Live wedding music can be expensive for couples on a budget. However, we found secrets to help keep the music flowing, costs low and without DJs.

"Generally, the more musicians and the more hours, the larger the cost," Chandler Judkins, President of Las Vegas Wedding Music, said. Las Vegas Wedding Music is the number one musician contracting company in Las Vegas. "Many options are available to keep costs low if you work with a flexible musician contractor."

1. Ask for deals

Many wedding music contractors have specials for those who can't afford the big band of their dreams or even a small string quartet.

For example, Las Vegas Wedding Music offers a string quartet for ceremony music in Las Vegas for around \$500 if the quartet is used for the ceremony only.

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String quartets usually charge by the hour and have a two hour minimum which could easily start at \$800.

Sometimes wedding music contractors are also the musicians in some of their own bands, so they have discounts to use the bands that they themselves play in.

Chandler Judkins of Las Vegas Wedding Music plays the trumpet in many of his wedding music groups, so a jazz quartet actually costs less than a string quartet but sounds just as beautiful.

When in doubt, ask the wedding music contractor. You never know what they might offer.

2. Get a Trio

If a string quartet, jazz quartet or any other wedding band seems just out of your reach budget wise, hire one less musician. Get a string trio or a jazz trio instead of a string quartet or jazz quartet. It is still better than hiring a DJ and sounds beautiful.

If a string trio or jazz trio is still out of your budget, duos can also be a beautiful touch. Sometimes simple is better anyway.

"Make sure you check with your wedding planner about duos though," Judkins said. "Sometimes they have contracts with string quartets that disallow them to cut players."

This is one reason why Judkins encourages brides and grooms to find a musician contractor to handle their music versus a wedding planner.

"Don't get me wrong," Judkins said. "Wedding planners are great. But they have their degree in wedding planning, whereas, we wedding musician contractors have our degree in music."

3. Maximize Your Time

If a couple's wedding reception plans consist of six hours of cocktails, then five hours of dancing, this can pose a problem if a couple doesn't have a deep wallet.

"When planning your wedding music, decide when the most people will be there and paying attention to the atmosphere," Judkins said. "You may only have a couple hours of live music, but it will make those hours the most unforgettable part of your wedding day ... to you and your guests."

To see examples of wedding bands and possible musician options, go to

<http://www.lvweddingmusic.com>

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. Learn more about Las Vegas Wedding Music by

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