

Gift Me My Wedding

RESOURCES

DJ's, Bands and Live Entertainment Questions - Knowing What to Ask your Vendors:

The entertainment for weddings is an important aspect of the ceremony and certainly for the reception as well. It is so important to understand that Wedding DJ's are very different than club DJ's – likewise, Bands that are experienced with weddings have a skill set that your favorite local band may not possess. It is your Entertainments job at the reception to keep all of your guests engaged and having fun. That means everyone from your Grandmother to your best friend from high school. They need to do this while keeping the Bride and Grooms requests for “play” and “do not play for any reason” as their number one priority. Additionally, it is the Entertainment Vendors responsibility to “MC” the reception. It is important for the events of the night to be announced so that no one in attendance misses the cake cutting, first dance, or any other part of the wedding. This needs to happen through the MC for the reception – and in a manner that does not take away from the Bride and Groom. The knowledge and experience that comes from doing weddings becomes very evident when you have a vendor with no experience with weddings. This in no way means that you cannot or should not hire your favorite local band if that is who you want to have for entertainment at your wedding. It does mean that someone in the band should know what will be needed from them so that they have time to prepare. The best wedding photographer in the world can still look bad because they failed to getting a single photo of the cake cutting – however if the cake cutting was not announced or announced while the photographer was in the restroom – was it really the photographer that did a poor job?

Things to know and ask vendors for ceremony music:

- Harpists and other live musicians must have a “back Up” plan in the event of rain. Their instruments are very expensive and they cannot risk them being caught in the rain. If you are having an outdoor ceremony this will be extremely important to know.

- Live musicians are able to play a verse over again to lengthen the song if needed for a longer processional.
- Live musicians may or may not have their own microphone systems. Based on your number of guests this may or may not be important.
- Live musicians may or may not need to be near electrical outlets
- DJ's can provide a larger variety of ceremony music.
- DJ's must have access to electrical outlets
- DJ's will frequently provide microphones for the officiant
- Wedding DJ's will know to make wedding party announcements into the room and will prompt you during meetings to see if you want parents, and / or grandparents announced into the room before the wedding party or if you would prefer they are acknowledged at their tables. Additionally a wedding DJ will have more options on how to handle awkward family issues that are no longer rare but fairly common in weddings.
- Many Wedding DJ's offer lighting and additional packages for their clients beyond their DJ services.
- Wedding Bands are aware of their MC duties to the reception and are also experienced in handling any issues that may arise.
- Bands simply take up more room than DJ's do. Based on how many guests you have invited and the size of the venue – this may become a factor.
- When hiring a band for your reception always make sure that the Venue you have selected for your reception can support the electrical requirements of the band.