

How to approach music on your wedding day

Music often plays an important role on festive occasions, and wedding days are no exception. The right music can make a wedding day that much more meaningful, while the wrong music can make a couple's big event memorable for all the wrong reasons.

Though music selection might seem like one of the easier decisions couples must make, those about to tie the knot typically must make a host of music-related decisions regarding their wedding day, including whether to choose a live band or a deejay to perform at their wedding receptions. While the reception is when music might be most on display, couples planning their weddings must think beyond the reception when setting the musical tones for their weddings.

CEREMONY

The ceremony itself often sets the tone for a couple's wedding day. A beach wedding, for example, often creates a laid back atmosphere, while a ceremony held in a large church or temple often sets a more formal tone. Music played during the ceremony also goes a long way toward setting the tone couples hope to establish.

When choosing music for the ceremony, couples should first consider the venue where they are tying the knot. Some, such as houses of worship, may have rules pertaining to what can and cannot be played inside the venue. Classical, hymnal or processional music often makes the best fit when weddings are taking place in more formal venues. Outdoor weddings tend to give couples more leeway. But in general couples don't want to choose any music that's too loud or over-the-top for their ceremonies.

Keep in mind that while the music played during the ceremony can set the tone for the day, this music can vary significantly from the music played during the reception. A favorite performer may not be appropriate during the ceremony, but that doesn't mean the couple can't dance to that artist's music during the reception.

Live musicians can add a more elegant feel to the ceremony, but such performers also can be



costly. Playing prerecorded music may not be as elegant as having a live performer, but it can cost a lot less and still make for an enjoyable day and evening.

RECEPTION

Many couples prefer deejays to live bands for their wedding receptions. Deejays can play favorite songs as couples and their guests know them, while bands can only play their own renditions of those songs.

Another thing to consider when choosing between a deejay or live band for the reception is the venue itself. Some venues are smaller and unable to accommodate a full band, while others may not have ideal acoustics, making it difficult for a live band to sound as good as they might in a more music-friendly environment.

The formality of the event should also come into consideration when choosing between a live band or a deejay for the reception. Deejays spinning the latest top 40 hits may stick out like sore thumbs at especially formal weddings, while a classical orchestra likely won't fit into the laid back theme of a beach or destination wedding.

Couples tying the knot outdoors may need to

consider equipment when choosing bands or deejays to play their weddings. For example, some venues do not provide equipment, such as microphones and speaker systems, to couples for their ceremonies. Renting such equipment can be costly, but couples can often skirt such charges by hiring deejays or bands who lend couples their equipment during the ceremony. Deejays or bands who will loan and set up the necessary sound equipment for outdoor ceremonies merit extra consideration.

When discussing music to be played during the reception, couples must consider their own musical tastes as well as those of their guests. A wide range of popular music tends to go best at wedding receptions, as guests are more likely to dance to songs they recognize. Avoid any music that has the potential to offend guests, opting for lighter, happier tunes instead. Whether hiring a band or deejay, couples should make a list of no-play songs or artists and make sure that such lists are included in their contracts.

Music plays an important role on couples' wedding days. Though choosing music for the ceremony and the reception is often fun, couples must take such decisions seriously.

WEDDING DATES TO AVOID

Some couples are excited by the prospect of hosting their weddings during holiday weekends. After all, having off on a Friday or a Monday provides an extra day for recovery or planning the wedding. But holiday weekends might not be embraced by potential guests. Travel costs and accommodations could be higher around holiday weekends, and some people have family traditions or other plans they may not want to miss during a holiday weekend. In terms of obstacles for couples, reception sites and vendors may charge higher fees to book a holiday weekend wedding, or they may be full on the dates you request. Looking ahead to 2015, here are the prominent holidays and when they occur, so you can plan accordingly.

Easter:

Weekend of April 4

Mother's Day:

Weekend of May 9

Memorial Day:

Weekend of May 23

Father's Day:

Weekend of June 20

Independence Day (U.S.):
Saturday, July 4

Labor Day:

Weekend of September 5

Columbus Day:

Weekend of October 10

Halloween:

Saturday, October 31

Veterans Day

Wednesday, November 11

Thanksgiving:

Thursday, November 26

Christmas:

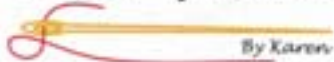
Friday, December 25

Boxing Day:

Saturday, December 26

Quirky numerical dates tend to attract a lot of people who want a memorable date. July 7, 2007 was quite a popular date because it was "777," or lucky 7s. In 2015, you may want to avoid 12/14/15.

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