

Wedding Pages®

BRIDE & HOME MAGAZINE

Music Choices Can ENHANCE Your Wedding

HOW MANY TIMES in your life do you expect to have a party with your own entertainment? Your wedding reception gives you that chance, and you should make the most of it.

Music creates the mood. Imagine a romantic movie without the sound of violins or a movie thriller without the benefit of background music. The effect would not be the same. The entertainment sets the tone for a celebration, but you give it direction. This is a chance for you to express your feelings through music.

Although the entertainment should be an appropriate match for the style of wedding, and type and size of the facility, the music is allowed to be versatile.

As with most weddings, your guests will be diverse, both in age and in musical tastes. Many of the people will not know each other. And each generation enjoys "their kind of music." Yet music can be the perfect ice-breaker, accompanying the rituals of the reception, as well as the ceremony that marks the day you officially start your life as husband and wife.

It is a time of mixed emotions for you and for your immediate family. The storybook wedding is coming to a close and an exciting honeymoon is waiting to happen.

Once the formalities are over, let the party begin and let everyone have a good time dancing the night away. Your options are endless, from big band music to rock 'n' roll—anything goes.

"Don't be misled by the terms band or orchestra," says Don Cagen of Cagen Music in Northbrook. "An orchestra is not necessarily more formal or 'less fun' than a band. An orchestra doesn't necessarily have strings. It's best to think of the terms being interchangeable. The term orchestra for this type of group really relates back to the swing era when names like The Tommy Dorsey Orchestra were popular."

The selection of songs should have some universal appeal. However, since it is impossible to please everyone, how do you decide which ones to choose? Your professional "music maker" knows.

How do you know which Chicagoland professional is right for you? Consider your budget and the style of wedding you want. Word of mouth recommendations are good. Look for a group or a DJ with many years of experience. They should provide you with song and price lists, as well as a resume of their credentials.

"Meet in person with the band leader or musical director of the group," Cagen suggests. "Make sure that you talk with a musician, not just an agent or manager. It's important to get a sense of how flexible, caring and responsive the musicians will be to your unique needs."

If you are looking for live entertainment, you should be able to hear a recording of the group. Be aware that many top-quality groups use audio demos, not video demos. This is because the quality of an audio demo is much higher.

Have an idea of what you would like, and be open to suggestions. An experienced professional has performed to every type of audience at a variety of special events. They know how to please a crowd expecting to be entertained.