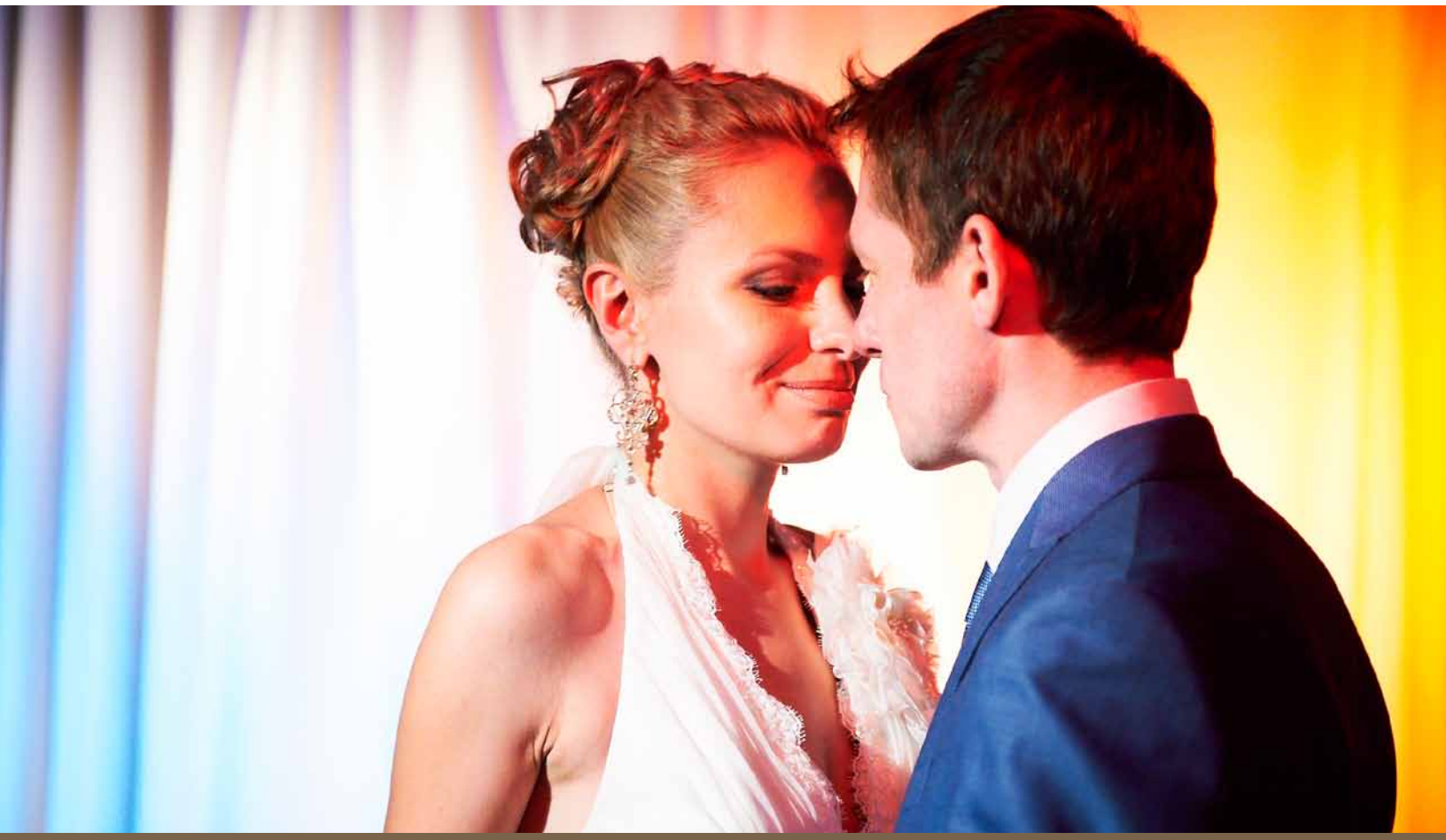


GUIDE

*What You Should Know
Before You Hire Wedding
Entertainment*



WILEY
ENTERTAINMENT

GUIDE

What You Should Know Before You Hire Wedding Entertainment

When the time has come to choose your wedding entertainment, you have more options than you could possibly have imagined. It can be overwhelming, and no doubt, questions upon questions will arise in your mind. No matter what you want at your reception, you should work with an entertainment company that is going to cater to the needs of your special day. You want your reception to

be unforgettable. You want an entertainment company that is going to get your guests out of their seats and onto the dance floor.

Do not skimp on entertainment. When choosing your entertainment company, there are a few things you should know before sealing the deal. Below



is a guide on how to find the perfect entertainment company for your reception. Your needs, the entertainment quality, and your budget are all to be taken into very careful consideration. Here are the must knows before you hire your wedding entertainment.

LIVE MUSIC OR DJ?

The first big question you will be faced with is DJ or live band? In making this challenging decision, always keep in mind your desired wedding vibe, venue space, budget, and finally, what you think your guests will enjoy as well. When you choose a live wedding band, it often dramatically enhances the ambiance and energy of your reception. There's nothing like live music to make a wedding reception timeless and romantic. A band that brings variety will leave your guests dancing all the way home. A good band plays to and interacts with the crowd at your reception.

If you don't think a live band is right for you, a wedding DJ is equally as great of an option. Choosing a DJ has several pros: they take up less space in your venue, often cost less than a live band and give you thousands of songs to choose from. Having a DJ ensures you can hear all your favorite songs from any genre, ranging from your favorite classic to your current favorite rap song. The songs will sound exactly as you remember them! If this sounds like what you are looking for, then a DJ may be the right choice for you. There is not a right or wrong choice, only what's right for you.

WHAT IS THEIR EXPERIENCE?

Whether you choose to go with live music or a DJ, you want to make sure your entertainment company is experienced. A band that sounds like they practiced in a garage for two months is worse than having no band at all. Likewise, a burnt out DJ sitting in a chair with a laptop is equally as bad. It's going to be painfully obvious to you and everyone at your wedding if your entertainment company has

little or no experience or is simply burnt out.

Do not be afraid to ask your entertainment company questions! If they have the credentials, they will answer. Ask them about events they have played at in the past. What is the most prestigious audience they have played for? Ask them if they have live video of their performances. This is a good way for you to see if this company is right for you. Also, search for customer reviews. It's important to hear what people are saying. An experienced and professional entertainment company will be honest and have nothing to hide.

THE CHEAPEST COMPANY MAY NOT BE THE BEST

Setting a wedding budget is important, but remember, you get what you pay for. People often look at price before considering quality. This does not mean there are no good reasonably priced bands out there, but it does mean you should make sure you are getting your money's worth. Regardless of price, a quality



entertainment company is professional and experienced. They are easy to deal with on the business side and understand what you want for your wedding day. They are well rehearsed and make pleasing you the utmost of importance. When talking price with your entertainment company, it is important to consider these things, and remember, ask questions. They will answer. If they won't, then you

have a problem. Paying more money will be worth it if it means a higher quality reception.

WHAT COST SHOULD INCLUDE

So now you know, wedding entertainment costs money. Entertainment companies typically charge a flat or hourly rate, depending on your reception needs and how long they are expected to play. No matter what you are paying, your entertainment company should act in a professional manner. They are to respect you and your guests throughout the whole reception. If at anytime you feel they are not doing this, it is important to tell them immediately. If you get selfish, creepy, or just all around bad vibes from an entertainment company upon first meeting, just say no.

They should also have a large selection of songs. Even if you are having a themed reception, hearing the same type of music over and over will get boring. There will be different types of guests at your reception, and you want music that will appeal to everyone. Additionally, cost should include quality sound and lighting equipment. Equipment of bad quality is going to affect your reception and the atmosphere on the dance floor.

WILL THEY CUSTOMIZE MUSIC FOR YOUR RECEPTION?

Typical entertainment companies have a music selection of over 20,000 songs. Make sure to look through their music repertoire before completing the deal. If your reception has a theme, discuss this with your company. You do not want a themed reception and have your entertainment show up with no idea what music fits the mood. Even if you don't have a theme, there are most likely songs you would love to hear and songs you do not want to hear. There is no way for

your company to know this without telling them. Additionally, you want your DJ or band to dress appropriately. Once again, tell them the atmosphere you are going for.

WILL THEY BRING THE ENERGY?

When your playlist is a go and the deal with your entertainment company is almost done, one last step is to ask about how they are going to keep the crowd engaged. If you have a band, will there be awkward pauses in between songs that are typical of bar bands? With a DJ, will he awkwardly talk to your guests on the dance floor in between songs, or will the music flow? If there is downtime, what will their plan be during a break? You can't go from rocking out to awkward silence, so make sure there will be energy throughout the evening.

THEY SHOULD BE WILLING TO TALK TO YOU

Regardless of what you want to ask your entertainment company, they should be willing to talk to you. If they are not, this means they may be hiding something and that is an immediate no. Wiley Entertainment ensures working with you to meet your needs and then some to give you the perfect wedding reception. Contact us to get started on your wedding reception planning today.

Photo Credit: Tim Dodd



About the Author

CLINT WILEY FOUNDER OF WILEY ENTERTAINMENT

Clint Wiley has been in the entertainment business for over ten years, and knows what it takes to put on a great show. Unlike many other entertainment companies, he makes sure that Wiley Entertainment provides the complete entertainment package. In less than a decade, Clint Wiley has put together an entertainment experience that's touching lives every single week of the year. With over 2,000 events and counting, he looks forward to raising the bar continually.