

HAMMER PRODUCTIONS

Your Entertainment Specialist

(404) 284 - 2154

Wedding Tips

Well it's twelve or so months before your wedding and you're in the market to find the best entertainment for your dollar. Ah but it's not that easy because you've never been married before. So what do you do? The best way to find Quality entertainment is to look for a company with a great reputation, one that is stable. Most of the time a friend or family member will refer you to a company. That's Great, but please remember musical taste varies from person to person and the music that they like may not be to your liking. Brides & grooms of today have truly been educated when it comes to planning their wedding, There are so many options today to choose from and the brides no exactly what their looking for. They truly do their homework. DJ's came into the Wedding field in about 1978 not knowing exactly what to do and making sure everyone knew they didn't. The music was very loud (most DJs were used to playing in clubs) and speakers were 5 feet tall and 3 feet wide and turntables and vinyl records were placed on rubber bands so the music wouldn't skip when the people were dancing as the floors shook. Most of the DJs were old band members or radio DJs who had not mastered the skill of mixing music (nor was the equipment available at the time) or keeping the volume at a considerable level. The concept of Professional mobile entertainment has changed for the better in the past years. Sound systems are much more compact with High Tech State of the art components and trained Disc Jockey's who truly understand the art of playing music and Emceeing. It takes years to perfect the knack, as well as talent. We've set up a guideline to help you find a great Disc Jockey.

Call the establishment and ask these Questions:

- 1. How long have you been in Business?**
- 2. How many people do you contract or employ?**
- 3. Are we allowed to submit a music list of some type?**
- 4. What is the attire suitable for your Wedding DJs? (Tuxedo a must)**
- 5. How vast is your music collection? (Minimum 10.000 titles)**
- 6. Do you have a rating card on your DJ or a client list to view?**
- 7. How many functions have you performed at?**
- 8. Do you require a deposit? How much? (50%)**
- 9. Do you accept major credit cards for payment?**
- 10. Is there someone to replace you in case of sickness?**
- 11. What is the cost for entertainment?**
- 12. Amount of hours for the price? (4)**

The entertainer should cater the function to tailor your needs not theirs. If you don't feel comfortable with a DJ or Agency don't use them. Not every person is right for you, It takes a lot of work to find the right DJ. We suggest that you choose two companies you feel comfortable with. The reason is that a company may book the DJ you were interested in so you will need a back up. You should always meet the DJ for a

HAMMER PRODUCTIONS

Your Entertainment Specialist

(404) 284 - 2154

consult prior to booking, (most consults are free of charge) At the consult set up some type of sample music list and question the performer as to his ability. Make sure you have some sort of contract with the company to secure your date, time and fees. Check or credit card should place a deposit of-10% - 60% only. (A good second receipt) Tipping is allowed and is usually from 10% - 18% at your discretion. Parking should be supplied to the DJ so they can get into the function room as soon as possible. A meal should also be supplied (deli platters are acceptable). No Alcoholic beverage should be included or consumed during a wedding by the DJ (if he says he must have a few drinks look elsewhere!).

Some DJs have video's of their past functions but this is not so important because you truly have no idea how they will perform at your function since every event is always different. It's better to call some of their past clients and speak directly with them. We suggest that you DO NOT go to a function to see the DJ (You would not want someone to barge into your function unannounced) because it is against the rules of most function facilities. Bands and DJs of the past would allow most people to walk right into a function room and disrupt the event. This is not accepted (nor do you want uninvited guests), All functions are closed to its attendees and are considered private affairs. It also breaks the entertainer's concentration and he does not perform at his/her best, Quite simply it's not professional. Also keep in mind that if a company accepts credit cards, they tend to be more reputable (credit card companies perform an intensive background check on the company before allowing them to accept credit cards) because of the background research done by most banks.

A reputable company should be in business for at least five years and having performed at least 1000 or more functions. A DJ must wear a tuxedo at your event. We feel a DJ should have most of the music list that you submit four weeks prior to your function. Companies may have a video available for you to view or may offer rating cards of some type or a client list. This is all relevant for no function is exactly the same (nor would you want it to be). Make sure you can contact the company at any time in case of an emergency. Prices can range from \$ 500.00 - \$ 1200.00 with most rates based on four hours. Extra time should be spelt out in your contract and will vary depending on the situation. The Set up time should be no less than 30 minutes prior to a wedding. Make sure to ask the event coordinator to set up tables pre-dressed prior to the DJs arrival to expedite set up. A DJ's sound system should be in some kind of console or coffin to protect the equipment and give it a neat professional appearance (this say's a lot about the company or DJ your dealing with). Most of all remember to have the best time with the music performed by the original artists. GOOD LUCK!

HAMMER PRODUCTIONS

Your Entertainment Specialist

(404) 284 - 2154

Money Dance

In many families a "money dance" -- sometimes called a "dollar dance" is traditional at wedding dance receptions.

In this dance, guests make an offering for the opportunity to dance with the bride or groom. This gesture is a way of wishing good fortune upon the newly married couple as well as helping them out financially. In the picture below (taken at a recent wedding reception where I was the DJ) you can see how even children can have fun participating in the money dance.

Starting the Money Dance. It is helpful if the money dance is scheduled to start at a specific time, but a certain degree of flexibility is required since various events may take less or more time than originally planned. When the bride and groom are ready for the money dance, they may send a messenger to the DJ informing him or her of this.

The DJ can then fade down the background music and announce the money dance -- *explaining the symbolism behind it, and introducing the attendants.*

After introducing the dance generally, the DJ may say, "And now the First Money Dance!" and start playing the tunes especially selected by the bride and groom for this purpose. It may also help to put up a banner or sign explaining what the money dance is all about.

The money dance attendants may help by organizing the line-up of guests and signaling when it is time to change partners. They might also help by pinning the money on the bride and groom before each dance. Children as well as adults of all ages can enjoy the money dance. Once the money dance starts, it is best to let it continue until everyone who wants to has had a chance to participate. When the dwindles down to zero, the bride and groom may finish the last song by dancing together. The DJ will then often open the dance floor to everyone.

It is best to have the money dance immediately after any other special dances, earlier on in the party before open dancing -- and before your guests leave!. By the way it is best if toasts and cake cutting, bouquet and garter tosses take place before the special dances. It's not effective to interrupt open dancing to go to cake cutting and return to open dancing. This causes a loss of momentum. It is best if one event flows smoothly and quickly into the next.

HAMMER PRODUCTIONS

Your Entertainment Specialist

(404) 284 - 2154

Money Dance Song Tips

Choose two or three songs that you think your grandparents, parents, uncles, aunts, cousins, all their friends and your friends would like to dance to.

We like to start off with something upbeat and then slow it down with a softer song so that elderly friends and family that don't dance regularly will feel comfortable participating.

Your DJ will play money dance songs until the lines are done.

There are two ways that we can organize the money dance. If your group is small, we can have everyone surround the dance floor and then allow your guests to cut in every 15 seconds and give you the money. If your group is large, we will have your guests that want to participate get in a men's line and a women's line. Then we will have the best man and matron of honor collect your money and let your guests know when they can cut in.

All You Really Need Is Love - Brad Paisley

Money – Pink Floyd

Baby Mine - Bette Midler

Money Makes The World Go Around - Kander

Back at One – Brian McKnight

Money, Money, Money - ABBA

Before Your Love – Kelly Clarkston

Money-Pink Floyd

Chances Are - John Mathis

Stand By Your Man - Tammy Wynette

Colour My World - Chicago

Take The Money And Run - Steve Miller Band

Fins – Jimmy Buffet

Ten Cents A Dance - Doris Day

For The Love Of Money - O'Jays

The Bridal Dance Polka - Mark Buza Orchestra

Friends - Elton John

The Money Song - Monty Python

Friends - Michael W Smith

We Need The Money - Chuck Brown & The Soul

Hey Big Spender - Sweet Charity

When I'm 64 - Beatles

I Found Love When I Found You - Kenny Wayne

Where Angels Live - Rhett Akins

If I Had A Million Dollars – Bare Naked Ladies

With A Little Help From My Friends - Beatles

Kiss The Bride - Elton John

You've Got A Friend - James Taylor

Lately - Tyrese

You've Got A Friend In Me - Randy Newman/Lyle Lovett

Love Don't Cost A Thing – Jennifer Lopez