



Copyright Information

Instructions, projects, and images are copyright ©2010 Signature DJs, All Rights Reserved. This manual contains material protected under International Laws and Treaties. Any unauthorized reprint or use of this material is prohibited. You may not edit, email, publish, or distribute the contents of this page in any form either physical or electronic without the prior permission of the copyright holder. If you would like to share the information on this page you may do so by giving the link to this page which is: <http://www.signaturedjs.com>





How to Hire the Right DJ for Your Wedding

If you're looking for music and entertainment for your wedding you're bound to come across hundreds of DJ's available in your area. So how do you know who to hire? How do you know the specific DJ will be the right fit for your wedding and your guests?

This report provides some of the steps to take and questions to ask as you seek out the ideal DJ for your wedding. I believe you'll find it extremely helpful while you plan one of the most important days of your entire life.

Experience Makes a Big Difference

When you hire a DJ who lacks wedding experience, you might end up getting a lower price, but as the old saying goes...“you get what you pay for.” If you happen to hire a DJ who doesn't happen to specialize in weddings or has only performed or MC'd a small number of weddings...just as much can go wrong as might with an inexperienced DJ.





Here are some examples:

- 1 He or she is not a leader at the event, and doesn't have the ability or knowledge to coordinate all necessary steps throughout the event. This causes unnecessary stress for you and creates potential issues for the other vendors.
- 2 Nervous stumbling or stuttering to get words or points across, such as announcing "time for cake" rather than calling attention and making sure all guests aren't missing important moments throughout the day.

Signature DJs prides itself in polished, professional MC'ing... "May I please have your attention, ladies and gentlemen? Please join us at the wedding cake with our bride and groom!..."

- 3 A DJ with little experience won't be familiar with all necessary formalities and may have to spend much of his or her time nervously reading notes about what to do next.

In fact, it can be a daunting list of things that may occur at your wedding. From lining up the bridal party and going through all names and pronunciations, to working in the dances and other formalities.

- 4 Not being familiar with all the different traditions and various aspects of weddings unique from one culture to the next. In some customs and religions an experienced DJ will know the appropriate timing of the event and won't interfere with the food service or flow of the party in general.





- 5 An unseasoned DJ may not be as well-rounded enough, musically, as he or she needs to be to perform for a wedding. See, a lot of newer DJ's are still caught up in wanting to play what they "think" people want to hear. Or because their friends like dancing to certain music, they expect everyone will feel the same way about "their" music.

A DJ with the right amount of experience knows the importance of "reading the crowd" and understands a wedding is made up of kids and adults from 5 to 95. He or she knows a diverse mix of music to keep every guest and member of the party in the right mood, happy, and participating from start to finish.

And when it comes to using a DJ who doesn't specialize in weddings, you may find he or she is most familiar with kids music, performing at a 50th birthday party, or a DJ who only works at a night club and only plays newer music for that specific crowd.

- 6 An inexperienced DJ might not play the songs he's supposed to play.

There are horror stories of DJ's missing Bride & Father dances, leaving a mom and her son waiting on an empty, silent dance floor, or simply playing the wrong song entirely for a special portion of your wedding.





The DJ vs. Band Debate

When most people start to put together a wedding, one of the big decisions is whether to go with a DJ or a Live Band. Being in the Wedding DJ business, we're of course a little biased.

But I also feel it's my duty to briefly go over why hiring a DJ is the best choice, for a number of reasons.

You might be thinking about hiring a band. And we understand that. There are plenty of great bands out there. Right off the bat, the most obvious disadvantage to hiring a band is the cost. And you have to wonder if it's worth hiring a cover band for up to 10 times that of hiring an experienced DJ.

Something we've all seen throughout the years is the wide range in quality music coming from a live band. I'm sure you've heard some great wedding bands, and you've likely heard some awful cover bands play live events.

The fact is you have more risk of a band not sounding quite as good as you would like than you would by hiring a DJ.

And many bands – even the great ones – have trouble breaking out of a certain sound they have and have trouble making some songs sound authentic enough to enjoy the way the original artists can.

Finally, aside from the financial swing in cost from a DJ to a band, is the fact a DJ's job is to “work the crowd” and be





involved just enough to keep the party going as long as you want it to. A band leader isn't necessarily the proven MC like great DJ's are. A band is there to play a role and it's more about the music.

A DJ is the leader, the MC, the person in charge of timing, schedules, coordination, and keeping your entire room full of guests comfortable and entertained from start to finish.

How to Find Your Wedding Disc Jockey

The larger DJ services typically have numerous Disc Jockeys you'll be able to meet and choose from. Most of the time, going to a full service DJ company will give you greater options altogether.

You should definitely consider personality and interview different DJ's to see how comfortable you are with each DJ individually. You'll notice varying personalities and not every approach is the right one for you and your specific wedding.

The better more experienced Wedding DJ services will be able to guide you towards specific DJ's rather than working with the smaller, one-man-show where you don't have much choice.





Some steps you should take to make sure which DJ or Disc Jockey entertainment company is your best choice:

1 Watch videos of the different DJs performing at a wedding reception.

If you only listen, you're not really getting the full picture. By viewing video you get to see the interaction, the appearance, and the way a DJ interacts with the crowd.

2 Make sure he or she has been professionally trained.

The great DJ's go through professional training and are often mentored within an organizations' own training program. There are plenty of DJ's out there with little professional training and, just like your little cousin, might know how to play some tunes.

A professionally trained wedding DJ understands the entire process, from working with you during an often-stressful time during the planning stage, to handling and managing different guests and personalities.

3 Hire a DJ who has experience working in many of the available venues.

A veteran Disc Jockey in your area will have mostly been hired to work in many different venues and establishments in your area. One telltale sign of a good, experienced DJ is if he or she has worked at a





variety of venues in your area, including popular hotels, restaurants, bed and breakfasts, mansions, and inns throughout your area.

It helps to have a DJ who has performed at your specific site, but it's not always possible. When you do find a disc jockey that, in the past, has DJ'd a wedding at the same location as yours, there will be a greater comfort level, he or she will have a much easier time working with the staff and will be familiar with any logistics of your site.

It's not a requirement that you only use a DJ that's worked at the specific venue, but it's certainly a bonus if he or she has.



4 Make sure you'll be able to speak with, or have an opportunity to meet with, the DJ you'll be working with.

This one is very important. What happens in a lot of cases is you're never actually sure who your DJ is going to be. When you go through some of the larger, more corporate-run DJ services, you're not allowed to pick your own DJ. And even if you are, you never get to have an actual discussion or conversation with him.

It's not an easy feeling knowing, the morning of your wedding, that you're not sure exactly who is going to show up at your wedding as your DJ. Often a secretary or office manager is in charge of selecting your DJ based on nothing more than availability and scheduling.





This is not the way to select a DJ and it's not fair to you! If the service you select doesn't put you in direct contact with the person who will be the DJ for the most important day of your life, then you'll need to look for a DJ company who provides a better level of service.



5 Be sure you have every aspect in writing, in a contract you both sign in agreement.

This includes the date of the event, performance times, any special lighting or live music options selected, or any additional fees or charges for additional services.

In fact, beware of the DJ who likes to “low ball” by providing a lower cost upfront, knowing he'll make up for it later. How? By leaving overtime charges off the contract or including them in the “fine print,” he'll more than make up for his low original price when you need him to stay an extra hour.



6 Make sure your DJ will be dressed appropriately

A DJ should be dressed in a tuxedo unless otherwise specified. The DJ can “dress-down” a bit, to reflect the style, need or request of the client.



For example, a birthday party or 1st Holy Communion party on a Sunday afternoon may not require a full tuxedo. In this case, often a suit and tie or dress slacks and a button-down shirt may be more appropriate.



Find out how many years experience your DJ has performing at weddings.

This one is a no-brainer. The more experienced the better. The better, more professional companies have specific training programs they'll put their new hires through, oftentimes teaming them up with someone already experienced with the specific companies' procedures.

It is possible to have a newer DJ with only a couple of years experience but has been thoroughly trained. He might surprise you with his knowledge and talents when working with the crowd because, even though he might not have 20 years experience, he's been trained well enough to be one of the best.





Be sure you're allowed to be involved in the music – as much as you prefer.

There are DJ's out there who prefer not to have your input at all, with the exception of the special dances, such as the first dance.

A great DJ will be your guide and help keep the music going based on his feeling for your guests. You want a DJ who can easily adapt to the crowd. Letting him take care of the music and entertainment is usually best so you can simply enjoy yourself as much as possible.

But you certainly want a DJ who is open-minded, very flexible and allows you to participate in the selection of music as much as you'd like.



Check references.

Great DJ's always have references they're ready to share with you. If a DJ you're interviewing is hesitant about sharing names or numbers of past clients, you might have to wonder why.

Speaking with past clients will certainly give you bits of useful advice.





10

Choose a DJ you're comfortable with and who has your best interest at heart.

Most important when hiring a DJ is using someone you're completely comfortable with. In fact the best way to have a great wedding is to only hire vendors you tend to like personally.

By having a DJ you can trust and having someone who is both personable and experienced...you can focus on enjoying your wedding.

The best DJs will communicate directly with you from the start, and weeks leading up to your special day. Then when the day is finally here, you won't have any surprises and you'll know exactly what (and who) to expect.

Experience the Signature DJs difference today by scheduling a FREE, no-obligation DJ Consultation

Setup Your Free Consultation





Serving Delaware County and the Tri-State area for over 20 years, Signature DJs prides itself in operating a full-time Disc Jockey organization. We employ ten (10) DJs. Signature DJs requires each DJ to have a minimum of eight (8) years of experience performing at party functions or wedding receptions.

Signature DJs has a unique approach toward perfectly planning your wedding reception or event celebration. We typically provide our clients with the opportunity to meet with their DJ personality approximately 2 months prior to their event. In some cases our clients may be traveling a distance to meet with us, or are planning their reception from another state. In these situations, we can schedule the personal planning session with the DJ at your convenience, several months, or even a year before your party.

If you can think of a type or style of music: we have played it, we will play it, we can purchase a song/artist for your function, and we will gladly play selections you may provide for us the day of your party. In addition, our clients can select as many songs as they would like. We will advise you on some of the best crowd pleasers, and ask you to note that we typically can play 15-20 songs per hour. For dancing (after the meal is finished), the normal ratio of song selections is approximately 8 fast/2 slow.

The cost of the services we provide at Signature DJs is approximately \$250/hour for wedding receptions. We charge approximately \$500/hour for bar/ bat mitzvahs. Our fee is slightly less for other party functions such as: birthday parties, anniversaries, sweet 16's and class reunions. There may be an additional charge for working at certain venues in Center City, Philadelphia, or if we must travel more than 1 hour from our office location. We can also put together a package to handle any live music needs your ceremony, cocktail or dinner, as well as professional lighting options. Please view the different packages and explore your options here.

To take the first step, please contact us to setup a free consultation.

Setup Your Free Consultation

www.signaturedjs.com