

# Make your wedding even better with tips on using a live band

## *Band set up*

One of the most important things to consider is where the band will be set up. The ideal situation is to put the band next to the dance floor. A lot of energy comes from the performers in the band. You really want that energy next to the dance floor if you want your guests to party like there is no tomorrow.

## *Older Guests*

It is also a good idea to ensure that your older guests are seated further away from the band. Younger people are more accustomed to louder music when it is party time and will more often enjoy being close to the band anyway.

## *Lighting*

Once the dance music is about to get underway, it is a good idea to dim the room lighting. People are more inclined to let themselves party if they know they are not in the spotlight.

## *Outdoor Performances*

If the reception is outdoor the stage area needs to be protected from rain. A marquee with sides is perfect to stop water getting into electrical equipment. If the event takes place in winter, reliable heating near the stage will make the band very happy if the night is cold.

## *Stage*

A stage is a great idea if you have the option. The audience can see the band better and having even the smallest stage has saved us from someone's crazy dance moves ending up on top of the drummer! (it has actually happened a few times)

## *Access to the venue*

The band will need access to the venue several hours before the first guests are due to arrive for setting up sound gear.

### ***DJ or IPOD***

When the band has a break there are a couple of options. Hire a DJ, put together an IPOD playlist or use the bands IPOD playlists. Usually the band will play for around 45 minutes and then take a 20 minute break. Oh and compilation CDs are fine too!

### ***The MC ( master of ceremonies)***

The MC is the best person to liaise with the band on the night. This will include coordinating the timing of any speeches or announcements. One thing we have also noticed over the years, is that when the MC tells the guests at the start of the night that it is really important to the bride and groom for everyone to relax, have fun and party on the dance floor. The vibe of the night seems to be just that little bit better.

### ***Out of Town***

A wedding in the country can be beautiful. And we are thrilled to get out of Sydney sometimes. It does make for a long day though, and making sure the band has accomodation is important. After packing all our gear in the car sometimes it can be 2 in the morning before we leave the venue. If it is more than a few hours to Sydney it is much safer to get the band some accomodation for the night rather than trying to drive home.

### ***Bridal Waltz (First Dance)***

The majority of people have a Bridal Waltz and for some it can be a nerve racking experience. If you have been getting dance lessons and have choreographed your Bridal Waltz it is a good idea to use the CD on the night. Even if the band does an exact rendition there will be a change in the way the song sounds which could possibly be enough to throw you on the night.

### ***Band Meals***

Usually the venue will know there will need to be band meals. The band are usually there for up to 8 hours and they will need a nutritous meal to sustain them. Band meals are usually just the main course. If it is at all possible to schedule the band meals in at least 30 min before the party music starts the band will love you for it! Sometimes jumping around on stage and singing can be hard when you have just shoved down your food in 5 minutes.

### ***The Party goes til Dawn***

If you are on private property and decide you want the party to go till dawn, finding a DJ to take over at some stage or having your own sound system and IPOD set up is a must. Playing party music is like running a marathon sometimes and there is a limit to how long a band can keep playing.