

WEDDING MUSIC



**10 Music Tips For
Your Special Day**

NICK DOAK



WHAT'S YOUR STYLE

Is he a little bit country while you are a little bit Rock N' Roll? Determining your specific unique style is no easy task.

First, think about what might be your style in a broader sense: traditional, modern, or perhaps, a perfect combo. A traditional wedding may include popular classical pieces, such as Pachelbel's "Canon in D", Bach's "Jesu, Joy for a Man's Desiring," or Wagner's "Bridal Chorus." If you sway towards the modern side, then choosing a song from your favorite pop artist, like Ed Sheeran or the Beatles, may be more complimentary to your ceremony. It is perfectly acceptable to mix and match songs of differing styles. After all, it is your special day.

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YOUR SONG

The music represents you as a couple, and should reflect the style of your wedding. If you are having difficulty choosing music for the ceremony and reception events, just think of a favorite song or band that best describes your love for one another. Think back to special moments in your courtship that music may have played a significant role, i.e. first date, concert, prom night.



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RESEARCH ONLINE

Between Pinterest, Instagram, and Google, brides today have tons of resources to find ideas and inspirations for selecting their wedding. Aside from asking friends and family, most brides surf the Internet first for their wedding needs in this digital age. By simply searching “wedding music,” you are instantly given millions upon millions of different outlets to choose from. Look for musicians and entertainment services with a professional website, industry experience, and a lot of reviews.



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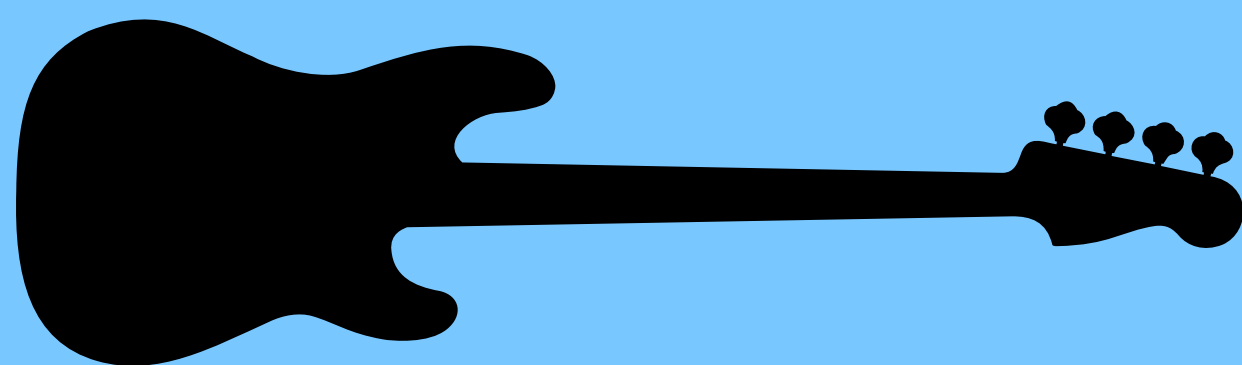
INSTRUMENTS

With your song selections in mind, now you must decide what types of instrumentalists and/or vocalists you would like to have for the ceremony.

Popular instruments and ensembles today include piano, classical guitar, harp, flute, and string ensemble.

Depending on your style, venue for the ceremony, and budget, some options are more feasible than others.

Professional musicians and ensembles with a functional website that provides audio samples and reviews will most likely be a safe choice for your wedding ceremony.



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ASK A MUSICIAN

If you are completely overwhelmed with where and how to select music for your wedding, do not hesitate to consult with the experts. Any professional musician should be able to help you in selecting appropriate music for the ceremony and reception. Describe your style to him or her and you will have the music planned in no time.

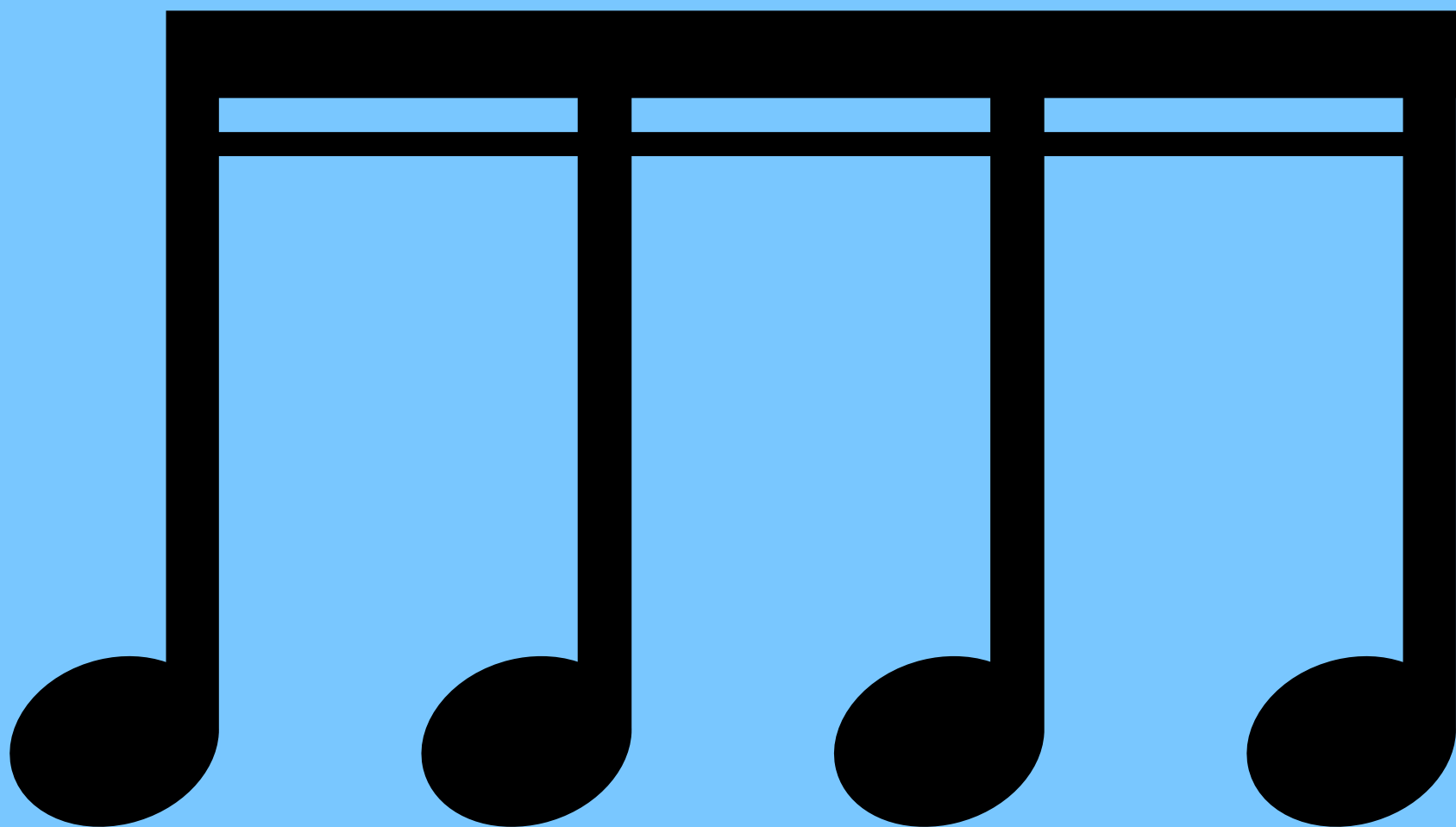


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CEREMONY STRUCTURE

Depending on the kind of wedding service you are having, a typical ceremony may include: 20-30 minutes of pre-service music, 1 song selection for the procession of bridal party, 1 song for procession of the bride, 1-2 song selections for specific events during the ceremony (optional), and 1 song selection for the recession of the bride and groom. Using this guide, you and your partner may only have to pick 3-4 songs for the ceremony.



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DJ V.S. BAND

If you are completely overwhelmed with where and how to select music for your wedding, Choosing a DJ or a live band will create two completely different vibes at your wedding reception. A 12-piece wedding band can be electrifying, but at the same time, an engaging disc jockey can also keep the guests dancing and satisfied all night. In either case, demand the highest quality from those you hire and expect whichever type of entertainment you choose will make your wedding memorable. Do not hesitate to consult with local musicians. Any professional musician should be able to help you in selecting appropriate music for the ceremony. Describe your style to him or her and you will have the ceremony music planned in no time.

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VARIETY

Consider how much variety you want during your reception. A wedding band will be able to play to the style of your wedding, but may lack in the ability to play songs at request, unlike a DJ. An experienced DJ should have no problem providing great variety and flexibility throughout the night because of the computer software DJs use to keep the reception hopping and the dance floor bumping.



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VENUE

Do not forget to take into account the size and location of your ceremony and reception when selecting songs for your wedding. Certain songs might not be appropriate depending on what instrumentalist you hire. It is often difficult to hear instrumentalists during an outdoor ceremony. In many cases, amplification and an electrical outlet near the ceremony site will be needed. In addition, the size of the reception is especially important to consider when hiring a live band. A small, low ceiling room is not an ideal venue for a wedding band. On the other hand, a DJ should be able to adapt to any size room.

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BUDGET

Generally, bands cost more than DJs, especially ensembles with 7-15 musicians. A professional wedding band, depending on the number of people, may cost \$3,000-\$15,000, while a typical DJ may cost \$800-\$1,500.

Between the ceremony and reception, you can expect to spend a conservative \$1,200-3,000 to have music at your wedding.

