

## 7 Tips for Wedding Reception Music

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1. **Don't walk into a silent room!** - Make sure you coordinate with your band or DJ to have some music playing *before* your guests arrive. If it is before their scheduled start time, see if they or the venue can have some prerecorded music playing from an iPod or CD (if you're old-school).
2. **Avoid 'dead air.'** - Schedule events, like toasts, cake cutting, and bouquet/garter toss, during the breaks. The party will have a better, uninterrupted flow and keep everyone involved. If it's not possible, make sure to ask the entertainers to have music playing during their breaks, until the action starts up again.
3. **Don't book the band too long (or too short).** - Think about your guests, the day and time of your wedding, and what else may be going on. Typically 3-4 hours is plenty of time for everyone to enjoy themselves at your wedding. Most entertainers charge on an hourly basis. If they have an overtime rate included in their contract, you may be able to add time if the party is still rocking. They most likely will not refund money if your event ends early, so try to avoid over-booking the entertainment.
4. **Pick songs well in advance.** - If you have very specific song requests, think of those before you book a band or DJ so that you can make sure the style of music is within their range. If you aren't sure, ask them for suggestions, but if it's something they'll need to arrange or learn, be sure to give them at least a couple of months. This may also include an additional fee, so make sure to ask if it's something they don't know already.
5. **Placement is key.** - No one wants to play to an empty room, so situate your entertainment somewhere near the key gathering spots (like the bar or buffet). Make sure to leave room for dancing and mingling. If the available space prevents this, make signs or have someone tell guests that there is some great music happening in the other room.
6. **Dancing encouraged.** - It's sometimes difficult to break the ice on the dance floor, but usually once one or two couples (not including children) get started, it's easier to get others moving. Consider hiring professional dancers to come and get the dancing started, or even to provide a quick dance lesson between sets of the band. You could also have your first dance and other special dances start off the second set of music or after dinner, and then invite everyone to join you afterwards on the dance floor.
7. **Finish big!** - Schedule a 'last dance' at the end of the evening. This may be a slow song, like "What a Wonderful World," to encourage couples to cozy up and get sentimental. Or, send everyone off with a salsa version of "Save the Last Dance For Me." Either way, this will give a memorable end to your big day.



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