



Music Services Planning Guide

This is simply a guide based on my past 15+ years as a DJ doing weddings and various other events. I consider there to be many different “groups” of events that make up the wedding day from a music stand point...here are some things you may want to consider when planning music.

If you have a certain theme or favourite type of music, this may help you to choose the music for the evening.

Ceremony

Some brides choose to keep the music for the ceremony to a similar theme or type (instrumental, or traditional throughout the ceremony), but the choice is yours. You may want to consider a microphone to ensure all guests can hear what is being said at the ceremony.

Ceremony Music Includes:

- Guests being seated (often 20-30 minutes is sufficient)
- Groom/groomsmen enter or come down the aisle
- Bridesmaids and flower girl/ring bearer enter or come down the aisle
- Bride enters (usually she has her own song after a brief pause and volume is loud to announce bride)
- Signing of the registry (always choose at least 4 minute song to ensure it isn't rushed)
- Optional “sand ceremony” during the wedding ceremony to join families is becoming popular
- Bride and groom come back down the aisle (usually up beat and louder)
- 1 or 2 more songs as guests mingle after the ceremony

Cocktail Hour

Music for this time frame is often light and easy listening as guests are getting a drink and finding their table for the evening. Simply choose a genre or mood and this background music will be a good start to the evening.

Introductions of Wedding Party

Some optional choices for entrances:

- Bridesmaid and groomsmen enter in pairs to their own song and song switches for next couple

- Each member of the wedding party has their own song to enter to (1 minute of a song)
- Groomsmen all enter together to a song and similar to all bridesmaids have their own song
- Bride and Groom enter and stands and claps as they enter

MC to begin their Duties

- Suggested to begin “corralling” the guests about 15 minutes before the introductions begin (possibly get a drink and take their seats as the wedding party is soon to be introduced)
- Do some general introductions as to who the MC is (connection to bride and groom)
- Housekeeping notes about smoking, washrooms, bar (open or closed during dinner)
- Maybe an itinerary for the evening so guests know the flow of the evening and events that will be happening (intros, blessing, dinner, speeches, dessert, etc)
- Announcing of tables for buffet dinner if necessary (DJ can also do this if needed)
- Introduction of guests to make speeches

Dinner Music

Again, often light and easy as it is background music for this timeframe and somewhat quiet as guests don’t want to be able to talk over dinner and shouldn’t have to yell over the music.

Some brides choose “slow” songs or some of their favourite “non danceable” music during this period so it doesn’t slow down the dancing portion of the evening

Other Evening Events to consider

- Cake cutting (some just make an announcement for pictures – no special music)
- Bouquet / garter toss (separate songs for guys and girls)
- Last song of the evening (or a song for Bride and Groom as they leave the reception)
- Frequency of slow songs throughout the evening (sometimes a rare occasion to dance with someone special)

First Dances to Consider (MC or DJ to introduce first dances)

- Bride and Groom first dance
- Bride and Father
- Groom and Mother
- Bride and Groom with Children (together or separate)
- Wedding party dance to bring guests to the dance floor