

THE ULTIMATE Wedding DJ Interview Guide

Questions every couple should consider before choosing their wedding entertainment



A practical planning workbook

Use the checkboxes to mark the questions that matter most to your wedding.
You do not need to ask every question - the goal is to choose a DJ you trust.

Prepared for couples by Tom Rood Entertainment

Professional Wedding DJ and MC Services

How to Use This Guide

A wedding DJ does much more than play songs. The DJ often manages the flow of the reception, makes announcements, coordinates with vendors, handles unexpected changes, and helps create the atmosphere your guests will remember. Use this guide to compare candidates consistently and to make sure important promises appear in writing.

A helpful approach

- Circle or check the questions that are important to you.
- Ask the same core questions of every DJ you interview.
- Take notes immediately after each conversation.
- Compare communication, professionalism, personality, and backup plans - not price alone.
- Make sure all important promises are included in the contract.

The 15 Most Important Questions

- ☐ Will you personally be the DJ at our wedding?
- ☐ How many weddings have you performed?
- ☐ How would you describe your DJ and MC style?
- ☐ How do you read the dance floor and choose music?
- ☐ Will you follow our must-play and do-not-play lists?
- ☐ How do you handle guest requests?
- ☐ What planning assistance is included?
- ☐ Will you help create and manage our reception timeline?
- ☐ What equipment and backup equipment will you bring?
- ☐ What happens if you become sick or have an emergency?
- ☐ Do you carry liability insurance?
- ☐ Exactly what is included in the quoted price?
- ☐ Are there any additional fees we should expect?
- ☐ What are your cancellation and rescheduling policies?
- ☐ Will every service, fee, and promise be included in a written contract?

DJ Interview Notes

DJ or Company

Person Interviewed

Wedding Date

Venue

Quoted Price

1. Experience and Professional Background

Experience matters, but so do professionalism, consistency, and the ability to explain how that experience benefits your wedding.

- ☐ How long have you been a professional wedding DJ?
- ☐ Approximately how many weddings have you performed?
- ☐ How many weddings do you typically perform each year?
- ☐ Are weddings your primary specialty?
- ☐ Are you the DJ who will personally perform at our wedding?
- ☐ If not, when will we meet the assigned DJ?
- ☐ Do you work alone or bring an assistant?
- ☐ Do you ever perform more than one wedding on the same day?
- ☐ Have you worked at our venue before?
- ☐ Have you worked with our coordinator, photographer, or other vendors?
- ☐ What makes your service different from other wedding DJs?
- ☐ How would you describe your ideal client?
- ☐ What do you consider the most important responsibility of a wedding DJ?
- ☐ Can we see recent reviews from actual wedding clients?
- ☐ Can we see video of you performing and speaking at a real wedding?
- ☐ Do you have recent references we may contact?
- ☐ Are you a legally registered business?
- ☐ Do you carry general liability insurance?
- ☐ Can you provide our venue with a Certificate of Insurance?
- ☐ Have you received professional awards or recognition?

Notes: _____

2. Personality, Presentation, and MC Style

The DJ's personality should complement your celebration rather than overpower it.

- ☐ How would you describe your personality as a DJ and master of ceremonies?

1A. BUSINESS STABILITY AND RELIABILITY

Additional Questions to Ask

A professional DJ should be able to explain how the business is established, how wedding commitments are protected, and how couples can remain confident that communication and service will continue through the wedding day.

- Are you a full-time or part-time DJ?
- If you work another job, what happens if your employer tells you that you must work on our wedding day?
- Do you maintain a dedicated business office or an established business address?
- What assurances can you provide that you will remain in business, stay in communication, and not disappear before our wedding day?

Notes

- ☐ Are you energetic and interactive, polished and reserved, or somewhere in between?
- ☐ How do you adjust your style to fit each couple?
- ☐ How often do you normally speak on the microphone?
- ☐ Do you use a radio-announcer voice, jokes, catchphrases, or sound effects?
- ☐ Do you sing along or dance behind the booth?
- ☐ Do you leave the booth to interact with guests?
- ☐ Do you lead line dances or teach dances?
- ☐ Do you use games, contests, props, or audience-participation activities?
- ☐ Will you avoid activities that embarrass guests?
- ☐ How do you create energy without becoming the center of attention?
- ☐ Can you accommodate a formal, elegant reception?
- ☐ Can you accommodate a relaxed or nontraditional wedding?
- ☐ Are you comfortable with multicultural, interfaith, and LGBTQ+ weddings?
- ☐ Will you respect our preferred names, titles, and pronouns?
- ☐ What will you wear at our wedding?
- ☐ Will assistants dress to the same level of formality?
- ☐ Will company banners, tip jars, or advertisements be displayed?
- ☐ Do you hand out business cards during the reception?
- ☐ Do you drink alcohol, smoke, or vape while working?

Notes: _____

3. Music Selection and Dance-Floor Management

A skilled wedding DJ should balance your preferences with the ability to read guests in real time.

- ☐ How large and varied is your music library?
- ☐ Are your music files legally obtained and stored locally?
- ☐ Does your system depend on Wi-Fi or streaming services?
- ☐ What genres and decades are your strongest?
- ☐ Can you provide clean or radio-edited versions of songs?
- ☐ How do you select cocktail-hour music?
- ☐ How do you select dinner music?
- ☐ How do you select dance music?
- ☐ Do you work from a fixed playlist or choose songs in real time?
- ☐ How do you read the dance floor?
- ☐ How do you know when to change genres or musical direction?
- ☐ How do you accommodate guests of different ages?
- ☐ Can you smoothly blend older and newer music?
- ☐ Can you help us choose songs for important moments?
- ☐ Will you confirm the exact artist and version of every important song?
- ☐ Can you shorten or edit a song for a special dance?
- ☐ Can you create a custom mix or medley?

- ☐ Is there an additional fee for custom music editing?
- ☐ Can we provide a must-play list?
- ☐ Is there a recommended limit for must-play songs?
- ☐ Can we provide a do-not-play list?
- ☐ Will you honor our do-not-play list even if a guest requests one of those songs?
- ☐ Can we choose whether guest requests are accepted?
- ☐ How do you decide whether a request will help or hurt the dance floor?
- ☐ How do you handle inappropriate or explicit requests?
- ☐ How do you handle a guest who repeatedly demands a song?
- ☐ Will you play every request made by a parent or wedding-party member?
- ☐ Who has final authority over music decisions?
- ☐ Do you beat-mix and transition smoothly between songs?
- ☐ Do you usually play full songs or shortened portions?
- ☐ Will you avoid excessive scratching, air horns, DJ drops, or effects?
- ☐ How do you handle a song that quickly clears the floor?
- ☐ How do you prevent the music from becoming repetitive?
- ☐ How often do you normally play slow songs?
- ☐ Can you accommodate a wedding with no line dances?
- ☐ Can you accommodate a completely profanity-free reception?
- ☐ Can you include cultural, ethnic, regional, or family favorites?
- ☐ How do you handle a reception where guests prefer conversation over dancing?
- ☐ Do you ever pressure or call out guests who are not dancing?
- ☐ How do you handle intoxicated or disruptive guests?

Notes: _____

4. Planning, Communication, and Timeline

- ☐ What happens after we book you?
- ☐ Do you provide an online planning system?
- ☐ Do you provide ceremony, reception, and music questionnaires?
- ☐ Will you help us build the reception timeline?
- ☐ How many planning consultations are included?
- ☐ Are consultations held by phone, video, or in person?
- ☐ Who will be our main point of contact?
- ☐ What is your normal response time for emails or messages?
- ☐ When will we speak directly with our actual DJ?
- ☐ When is the final planning meeting?
- ☐ When are our planning forms due?
- ☐ What is the deadline for final changes?
- ☐ Can we make changes after submitting our information?
- ☐ Will we receive a copy of the final timeline?
- ☐ Will you contact our venue before the wedding?
- ☐ Will you coordinate with our wedding planner or day-of coordinator?
- ☐ Will you communicate with our photographer and videographer?
- ☐ Will you confirm that the photographer is ready before announcing a major moment?
- ☐ How do you handle last-minute timeline changes?
- ☐ Who is authorized to change the timeline during the reception?
- ☐ Will you check with us before making a major change?
- ☐ How do you handle a wedding that falls behind schedule?
- ☐ Can you recommend the best order for reception events?
- ☐ Can you help us avoid too many interruptions during dancing?
- ☐ How do you document special instructions and pronunciation notes?

Notes: _____

5. Ceremony Sound and Music

- ☐ Do you provide ceremony sound?
- ☐ Is ceremony service included or an additional charge?
- ☐ Can you provide sound in a separate ceremony area?
- ☐ Is there an extra charge when the ceremony and reception are at different venues?
- ☐ Do you provide prelude music while guests arrive?
- ☐ Can we choose specific prelude, processional, unity, and recessional songs?
- ☐ Can you accommodate multiple processional songs?
- ☐ Who will cue each ceremony song?
- ☐ Do you attend the rehearsal?
- ☐ Is rehearsal attendance included or available for an additional fee?
- ☐ Do you provide a wireless microphone for the officiant?
- ☐ Will the officiant microphone also capture our vows?
- ☐ Can you provide a separate microphone for readers or singers?
- ☐ Can you connect live musicians or play accompaniment tracks?
- ☐ Do you provide microphone stands?
- ☐ Can the ceremony system operate without electrical power?
- ☐ Do you have battery-powered equipment for outdoor ceremonies?
- ☐ Do you perform a sound check before guests arrive?
- ☐ Do you carry backup ceremony microphones and batteries?
- ☐ Can you provide an audio feed to our videographer?
- ☐ How do you protect outdoor equipment from wind, rain, heat, and direct sunlight?
- ☐ What is your rain-contingency requirement?
- ☐ Will prelude music continue if the ceremony begins late?
- ☐ Can you handle a remote ceremony location?
- ☐ How do you keep cables safe and out of guest walkways?

Notes: _____

6. Equipment, Sound Quality, and Appearance

- ☐ What type of sound system will you use for our wedding?
- ☐ Is the system appropriate for our venue and guest count?
- ☐ How do you determine the correct speaker configuration?
- ☐ Is a subwoofer included or available as an upgrade?
- ☐ Can you provide separate sound for ceremony, cocktail hour, and reception spaces?
- ☐ Can dinner and dance-floor volume be controlled separately?
- ☐ How do you keep sound comfortable for guests seated near the speakers?
- ☐ Will you comply with venue sound restrictions?
- ☐ Do you use a sound-level meter?
- ☐ What type of wireless microphones do you provide?
- ☐ How many microphones are included?
- ☐ Do you carry spare microphone batteries?
- ☐ Can you provide a microphone stand for speeches?
- ☐ What does your DJ booth and equipment setup look like?
- ☐ Can we see a photograph of the exact setup you plan to use?
- ☐ Will loose cables, storage bins, and road cases be hidden?
- ☐ Do you provide your own table or booth?
- ☐ How much space do you require?
- ☐ How many electrical circuits do you require?
- ☐ Do you use surge protection and professional power distribution?
- ☐ Can your equipment safely operate from a generator?
- ☐ Do you perform a complete equipment test before every event?
- ☐ Can you connect a keyboard, guitar, vocalist, or other live performer?
- ☐ How do you handle venues with difficult acoustics?
- ☐ Will your setup be fully completed before guests enter?

Notes: _____

7. Backup Plans and Emergency Preparedness

Professional preparation is often invisible - until something goes wrong.

- ☐ What backup equipment do you bring to every wedding?
- ☐ Do you carry a backup computer?
- ☐ Do you carry a backup mixer or DJ controller?
- ☐ Do you carry backup speakers?
- ☐ Do you carry backup microphones, cables, and adapters?
- ☐ Is your backup equipment physically onsite?
- ☐ How quickly can you recover from an equipment failure?
- ☐ Is your music stored in more than one location?
- ☐ Can music continue while failed equipment is replaced?
- ☐ What happens if the assigned DJ becomes ill or has an emergency?
- ☐ Do you have qualified backup DJs?
- ☐ Would we be notified before a replacement is sent?
- ☐ Can we speak with the replacement DJ?
- ☐ What happens if your vehicle breaks down?
- ☐ How much travel time do you allow for traffic and road closures?
- ☐ What happens if venue access is delayed?
- ☐ What happens if the venue loses power?
- ☐ Do you carry backup power or battery-operated equipment?
- ☐ What happens if wireless microphone interference occurs?
- ☐ What is your plan for severe weather or an outdoor event moving indoors?

Notes: _____

8. Lighting and Special Effects

- ☐ Is dance-floor lighting included?
- ☐ What type of lighting will you provide?
- ☐ Can we see photographs or video of your lighting setup?
- ☐ Can lighting be adjusted for dinner, slow dances, and formal moments?
- ☐ Do you use flashing or strobe effects?
- ☐ Can strobe effects be completely disabled?
- ☐ Can you accommodate guests with photosensitive epilepsy or sensory sensitivities?
- ☐ Do you use lasers, and how are they operated safely?
- ☐ Do you use haze or fog?
- ☐ Will you obtain venue approval before using atmospheric effects?
- ☐ Do you provide uplighting?
- ☐ How many uplights are included?
- ☐ Can uplighting match our colors and change later for dancing?
- ☐ Are uplights battery-powered?

- ☐ Do you offer moving-head lighting?
- ☐ How are lighting stands and totems secured?
- ☐ Can lighting be positioned without blocking photographers?
- ☐ Do you offer a custom monogram?
- ☐ Can we approve the monogram design?
- ☐ Do you offer low-lying fog for the first dance?
- ☐ Do you offer cold-spark effects?
- ☐ Will you obtain all required venue and fire-code approvals?
- ☐ Is special-effects operation covered by your insurance?
- ☐ What happens if the venue refuses an effect after we book it?
- ☐ Can all flashing effects remain off unless we specifically approve them?

Notes: _____

9. Venue Logistics and Vendor Coordination

- ☐ How early will you arrive?
- ☐ How much setup and breakdown time do you need?
- ☐ Are setup and breakdown included in the price?
- ☐ Do you visit unfamiliar venues before the wedding?
- ☐ Is a site visit included?
- ☐ Do you confirm loading, parking, elevator, and access arrangements?
- ☐ Are there additional charges for stairs, long carries, parking, tolls, or valet service?
- ☐ Do you bring carts and equipment to protect the venue's floors and walls?
- ☐ What happens if another event delays your access to the room?
- ☐ Do you coordinate electrical and sound requirements with the venue?
- ☐ Do you require a vendor meal?
- ☐ When do you normally eat?
- ☐ Will music continue while you eat or take a break?
- ☐ Do you require a tent or overhead cover for outdoor events?
- ☐ What temperatures or weather conditions prevent safe operation?
- ☐ Can your setup be safely placed on grass, gravel, or uneven ground?
- ☐ Will equipment cases remain visible in the reception room?
- ☐ Do you coordinate all major announcements with the venue and other vendors?
- ☐ Can you provide insurance documentation by the venue's deadline?
- ☐ Who should the venue contact on the wedding day?

Notes: _____

10. Packages, Pricing, and Payments

- ☐ What packages do you offer?
- ☐ Which package do you recommend for our wedding, and why?
- ☐ Exactly how many hours are included?
- ☐ Does the contracted time include setup and breakdown?
- ☐ Are ceremony, cocktail hour, dinner, reception, and MC services included?
- ☐ Are planning consultations and online tools included?
- ☐ Is dance-floor lighting included?
- ☐ Is travel included?
- ☐ Are there fees for separate ceremony and reception locations?
- ☐ Are taxes included in the quote?
- ☐ Are there service, administrative, or credit-card fees?
- ☐ What is the complete price after all required charges?
- ☐ What optional enhancements are available?
- ☐ Can enhancements be added later?
- ☐ How late may we add them?

- ☐ Are upgrades subject to availability?
- ☐ Can we remove an enhancement after booking?
- ☐ Do you offer a combination discount for DJ and photo-booth services?
- ☐ What retainer is required?
- ☐ Is the retainer refundable?
- ☐ When is the remaining balance due?
- ☐ Can payments be made in installments?
- ☐ What payment methods do you accept?
- ☐ What happens if a payment is late?
- ☐ What is your overtime rate?
- ☐ Is overtime billed in full hours or partial hours?
- ☐ Who may authorize overtime?
- ☐ Does the ending time remain the same if the reception starts late?
- ☐ Are there fees for early setup or equipment relocation?
- ☐ Will our price be guaranteed in writing?

Notes: _____

11. Contract, Cancellation, and Insurance

- ☐ Do you provide a written contract before payment?
- ☐ Will the contract list the date, venue, start time, and ending time?
- ☐ Will the assigned DJ's name be listed?
- ☐ Will every package item and enhancement be listed?
- ☐ Will every fee be disclosed in writing?
- ☐ What is your cancellation policy?
- ☐ What is your rescheduling policy?
- ☐ Can payments be transferred to a new date?
- ☐ How long do we have to select a new date?
- ☐ What happens if you are unavailable for the new date?
- ☐ What happens if the venue closes or the event cannot legally take place?
- ☐ What happens if severe weather prevents the wedding?
- ☐ What happens if we change venues?
- ☐ What happens if we shorten the reception or reduce the guest count?
- ☐ What happens if the DJ cancels?
- ☐ Will we receive a full refund if you cannot provide a qualified replacement?
- ☐ What amount of liability insurance do you carry?
- ☐ Does your policy cover assistants, lighting, and special effects?
- ☐ Can we opt out of having our wedding posted on social media?
- ☐ How is our personal information protected?

Notes: _____

12. Photo Booth and Additional Services

- ☐ Do you offer a photo booth?
- ☐ What type of booth do you provide?
- ☐ Is an attendant included?
- ☐ How many hours are included?
- ☐ Are unlimited sessions included?
- ☐ Are prints included?
- ☐ How many prints are provided per session?
- ☐ Can the print design be customized and approved?
- ☐ Will we receive digital copies or an online gallery?
- ☐ Can guests text, email, or AirDrop images?
- ☐ Does the booth require internet access?
- ☐ Are props and a backdrop included?
- ☐ Can we request a booth without props?
- ☐ How much space and electrical power does the booth require?
- ☐ Is a guestbook included, and who assembles it?

- ☐ Do you offer an audio guestbook?
- ☐ How are audio and photo files delivered?
- ☐ How long are files stored?
- ☐ Do you offer a 360 booth, and how do you reduce fall risks?
- ☐ Who operates additional services while the DJ is performing?

Notes: _____

13. Inclusivity, Accessibility, and Guest Comfort

- ☐ Can you provide lower volume near specific tables?
- ☐ Can you avoid all flashing effects?
- ☐ Can you accommodate guests with sensory sensitivities?
- ☐ Can announcements be made slowly and clearly?
- ☐ Can you work with an interpreter?
- ☐ Can announcements be made in more than one language?
- ☐ Do you have experience with bilingual weddings?
- ☐ Can you modify traditions to avoid gendered language?
- ☐ Can you make the anniversary dance or bouquet activity more inclusive?
- ☐ Can you accommodate cultural or religious music restrictions?
- ☐ Can you coordinate with cultural performers or musicians?
- ☐ Can you accommodate a sober wedding?
- ☐ Can the entire reception remain family-friendly?
- ☐ How do you safely manage children near the DJ booth and equipment?
- ☐ Can you make clear emergency or transportation announcements?

Notes: _____

14. Warning-Sign Questions

These questions help uncover vague promises, missing safeguards, or business practices that deserve a closer look.

- ☐ Will every promise you make be included in the written contract?
- ☐ Why is your price significantly lower or higher than other DJs?
- ☐ Do you require payment before providing a contract?
- ☐ Do you depend on the internet for requested music?
- ☐ Is backup equipment actually onsite?
- ☐ Can we hear a realistic sample of your MC style?
- ☐ Will you guarantee that our do-not-play list is followed?
- ☐ Could our assigned DJ be changed without informing us?
- ☐ Do you subcontract weddings?
- ☐ Are there any fees that are not shown in the proposal?
- ☐ What happens if you are late?

- ☐ What happens if your equipment fails?
- ☐ What happens if you become ill?
- ☐ Will you arrive early enough to be completely ready before guests enter?
- ☐ Are you willing to place every important agreement in writing?

Notes: _____

Final Comparison Scorecard

Rate each category from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent). Price matters, but trust, preparation, communication, and the ability to manage the entire reception are equally important.

Category	1	2	3	4	5
Listened to our vision	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Professional communication	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Personality and MC fit	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Music knowledge	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Planning support	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Equipment and presentation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Backup preparation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Contract clarity	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Value for the price	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Overall confidence	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

The most important final question

Do we trust this person to represent us professionally and guide the flow of one of the most important celebrations of our lives?

Tom Rood Entertainment | Wedding DJ and MC Services

Share this guide with any couple planning a wedding.