



## Tips & Things to Consider While Planning your Special Day

Planning your wedding can feel like a daunting task but with this document and our support we hope we can help make this a little bit easier! This was written from a DJ's perspective of your wedding day so there are plenty of other pieces when planning but our hope is to give you some things to think about that you may have overlooked.

# Sample Timeline

4:00 PM - 4:30 PM: Pre-ceremony/Guests Seating  
4:30 PM - 5:00 PM: Ceremony  
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM: Cocktail Hour  
6:00 PM - 6:20 PM: Grand Entrance & First Dance  
6:20 PM - 6:30 PM: Toasts & Blessing  
6:30 PM - 7:00 PM: Dinner  
7:00 PM - 7:10 PM: Cake Cutting  
7:15 PM - 7:30 PM: Parent Dances  
7:30 PM - 8:30 PM: Party Time!!!  
8:30 PM - 8:45 PM: Garter & Bouquet/Shoe Game/Dollar Dance  
8:45 PM - 9:45 PM: More Party Time!!!  
9:45 PM - 10:00 PM: Last Dance & Encore

**\*\*\*When viewing the rest of this document please keep this timeline in mind. This is just a sample timeline and can be adjusted to meet the needs of your day. For the purpose of this document I will be using this timeline as a reference point.**

## The Ceremony



- Pre-ceremony Music – Consider the music you would like played prior to the Ceremony beginning. We will be set up 20 – 30 minutes prior to your ceremony with music of your choice playing as well as greeting guests.
- Processional Music – Consider who will be walking down the aisle when thinking about your processional music. Generally two songs will work well but we have done three songs in certain scenarios. The first song is for parents/special guests and your wedding party. The second song will be for the bride(s) and parents.
- Recessional Music – This is generally an upbeat fun song that celebrates the marriage that just took place but can be any song that you'd like.
- Microphones- We provide complimentary lapel microphones for your ceremony. Also consider if you are having any readings or guest speakers during your ceremony. We can provide a handheld microphone for that as well...Our goal is to be sure everyone in the audience can hear the proceedings and feel connected with the most special part of the day.
- Sand Ceremony/Hand Fasting/Communion– Consider a song to be played if you are doing any special ceremonial events. These can often take a few minutes and a song as a beautiful touch while these are taking place.
- Special Announcements – Please let us know if there is any announcements you would like to be made prior to or after the ceremony.

## Cocktail Hour



- Cocktail Mix – The music of the Cocktail Hour will not be the focus of this portion of your wedding but a background to conversation, celebration, and refreshments. What we find works well is to keep the music on the upbeat side at a volume where conversation and laughter fill the room. Musically you are free to choose whatever music you'd like but a mix of genres, tempo's, and moods is suggested to set the mood for your evening.
- Will you be joining? – Becoming increasingly more popular is couple's joining their cocktail hour. This is a great way to greet some of your guests prior to the reception which will save you some time in working the room during your reception. You will find that saying "thank you" to guests much easier in a cocktail hour setting than is during your reception. Let us know if you plan to be there!
- Special Announcements – Please let us know if there is any announcements you would like to be made during your cocktail hour. Things like Signature Drinks, Hash Tags, Photo Coordination are just some of things that people have asked to be announced during this time.
- Consider your Location – Often times your cocktail hour will take place in a different location than your ceremony and reception. We love this!!! With our battery powered JBL Eon One Pro system, your Ceremony and Cocktail Hour locations are limitless...from on top of the mountain to on the beach, we got you covered!!

## Reception Grand Entrance



- Who are you introducing? – It’s your day!! You can formally introduce whoever you’d like. The List to the right is a list of commonly introduced people during your grand introduction. This is by no means a concise list of who can be introduced, but the majority of our weddings follow this general order

- Table Acknowledgement vs Formal Intro - Sometimes you want to acknowledge special people in attendance but will not be having them formally introduce. Acknowledging people/groups at their table prior to formal introductions is a great way to do so! Often times grandparents may have mobility issues where acknowledging them at their table works brilliantly. Another fun option is to acknowledge groups of people...whether it be college friends, work buddies, or that “crazy” table you put together... This is a great way to build excitement prior to the formal introductions!!!

- Entrance Music - Highly recommended that you choose an upbeat song for the introduction of the Parents/Grandparents/Wedding Party etc...This is an exciting part of the night and helps set the tone for the rest of the evening. For the Wedding Couple the music options are a bit more varied. Many stick with an upbeat song to enter into but there are plenty of couples who choose something a little more subdued. Either way, it is always a beautiful moment with the song providing the soundtrack, choose something special to you and go with it.

- Wedding Party Entrance Destination? Some people want their wedding party to go directly to their seats while other’s want these special people to remain on the dance floor. This is personal preference but keep some things in mind and something we can touch base on during our planning call.

- Wedding Party Size
- Dance Floor Size/Room Size
- Are you doing your first dance directly after your Entrance
- Anyone in your wedding party shy/anxious/unable to stand for a long period of time?

### Common Intro Order

- Grandparents  
(or Shout-Out at table)
- Parents of the Couple
- Ushers
- Officiant  
(if a close friend)
- Flower Girl & Ring  
Bearer’s
- Wedding Party
- Wedding Couple



## Reception Toasts & Dinner



- Toasts– Commonly it is the Best Man/Person and Maid of Honor making toasts. It is not uncommon that the Father of the Bride makes a toast as well. Hey, its your day. You can have anyone give a toast that you want!
- Where do toasts happen? – Our recommendation is for the toasts to take place at the sweetheart/main table so that your photographer can get pictures of the toasts being made while you are also in the shot. This makes for some heartfelt and honest pictures of you and some the most special people on your big day.
- When to make toasts? – Often this will take place after your first dance and right before dinner. The spotlight of guests will be on you as you have just transitioned from the dance floor to your table, makes for the perfect moment! That being said, they can take place at any point in the evening but we have found this approach to work quite well.
- Will you make a speech? – Some couples decide to a make a speech at some point to thank guests for coming and welcome them to their reception. Inevitably you will not be able to spend time with every person throughout the night, this is a great way to thank all of your guests and free you up for dancing and fun!

## Reception Parent Dances



- What song do I choose? This is often the most difficult music choice for couples. This can be such a special moment of the evening which makes picking that “perfect song” difficult. As special as this moment is for you it is equally as special for that person you are dancing with. With that in mind, it is popular to put the decision on your parents (might as well put some work on them right) 😊 Whatever your song decision you can be confident this will be a memorable part of your night. Oh, make sure to have some tissues ready!
- How long to dance? – We recognize that some people are not the biggest fans of having the spotlight on them and are quite nervous about getting out there to dance. If this is the case we recommend that we fade the song at a point that makes sense. This will be a seamless transition that ensures you’ve had plenty of time to share a moment with your special someone and picture/video footage is captured. This can be applied to any of the ceremonial activities throughout your day.
- Who Dances First?– Traditionally the Bride will Dance with her Father first but this is not always that case. If there is no preference, this is what we will plan on but we can do it any order you’d like.
- Anyone Else? – Grandparents, your new Mother/Father In-Law, children....We have shared in so many special moments celebrated on the dance floor at this time and is a great way to acknowledge someone in your life that has gone above and beyond.

## Reception Cake Cutting



- What song do I choose? – We recommend an upbeat fun song for your Cake Cutting. This is a good way to reengage your guests and get them excited as we move closer to party time! In addition, we will also be engaging your guests (“who thinks they are going to be wearing this cake when we are done”) to help draw the attention back on you.
- When do you cut the cake? – Some venues prefer the cake cut before dinner is served. Usually this is because they would like to be cutting and plating the cake while guests are enjoying dinner and served soon after dinner is cleared. If the venue does not have a preference we like to do this after dinner as we feel putting too many events prior to dinner can be overwhelming for the couple. Be sure to check in with your venue to see if they have a policy on when the cake is supposed to be cut.
- Who needs a Napkin? – The Cake Smash....This is a very popular topic and something that you will likely discuss (and are encouraged to) prior to the moment. This is totally up to you on whether you let the cake fly or not. The majority of couples in recent years have chosen not to do a smash and, if anything, choose to do a quick smear on the cheek. Whether a full on food fight or something more low-key, it is highly encouraged to have a damp cloth and napkins on hand!
- Location, Location, Location – Where you stand while you cut the cake is important. In conjunction with the other vendors we will give you some direction on where to stand so that you can get the best pictures possible while also being visible to your guests.

## Reception

### Garter & Bouquet



- Do I have to? – Nope! Some wedding traditions are holding strong while some are becoming less popular. The Garter is done less and less as the years go by. If you are not a fan of being embarrassed or get nervous in front of crowds, this might be an activity you choose to skip. People are choosing to do other activities such as the Shoe Game as well as allowing more time for dancing!!
- What do I do? – This is a great time to engage the guests by teasing them with the toss and being comical with the garter removal. This is a time of night where you don't want to be reserved....have fun & get silly....your guests will love it! One major point to keep in mind is to be sure to give your photographer enough time to get all the shots before you let it fly!!!
- What Song Do I Choose –
  - Garter: Upbeat Fun or Slow & Sexy are both good choices!
  - Bouquet: Upbeat is the way to go!
- One without the other?- It has not been uncommon for couples to choose to skip the Garter activities and only do the Bouquet or skipping both and giving the bouquet to someone special.

These are a couple of the more common wedding activities but certainly not the only ones. Please let us know if there is a religious/cultural ceremonial activities you would like to take place during your special day.



## Reception

Anniversary Dance

Shoe Game

Centerpieces



- Anniversary Dance – The Anniversary Dance is one of our favorite things to do at weddings. The way this works is that we start with the newly wedded couple on the dance floor to start us off for a slow dance. From there we will call couples on to the dance floor based on how long they have been “married or together”. By the end of the song we have a packed dance floor and ultimately find out who has been together the longest in the room! A great time to do this activity is right before we get the dance floor going. We love the Anniversary Dance for a few different reasons:

1. Your photographer gets a great opportunity to get shots of couples on the dance floor.
2. By the end of the song we have a packed dance floor, primed to get the dancing started.
3. It helps break some anxiety for some people who might have taken a bit more time to get on the dance floor

- Shoe Game – The Shoe Game is a popular game that is a lot of fun and makes for some memorable moments. The way this works is that we place two chairs, back to back, on the dance floor. Here the Happy Couple will sit with their backs to each other, holding one of their shoes and one of their partners shoes. We will then read through a list of questions such as “Who spends the most money on unnecessary things” or “who is the better driver”. You then hold up the shoe you think the questions applies to!!! This can definitely make for some funny moments.
- Center Pieces – Something to consider is if you would like your guests to take your Centerpieces home at the end of the evening. If you do decide that you want to we can help make sure they go home with someone at the end of the evening. We have some creative “games” and activities that will help each table know who has the honor of taking the centerpiece home.



## Reception Party Time!!!



- What to play? – Some couples are specific on the music they want to be played at their wedding while others take a more hands off approach and prefer the DJ handle that piece. We are very comfortable in both scenarios and you can be confident in a fun night regardless of the direction you take. We value what your guests want to hear and will look to you for suggestions on what may work well....you will know your guests the best!
- Requests (if chosen)– We love to know what guests want to hear and requests are a great way to find that out. In conjunction with your musical selections together we can create the perfect vibe for your day. Being professional DJ's we pride ourselves on being able to read a crowd to go with what's working, but we're not too proud to take the easy route sometimes. 😊

If you decide that you'd like to have requests, please let us know if you would like guests to be able to make them digitally. In our system we can give guests the ability to make requests from their phones which will be sent directly to our laptops....guests love this option and helps get people excited to party!!

- Will you join us?– Nothing gets a dance floor rocking like the Happy Couple on the dance floor! You have a lot to do all night so we certainly understand that you can not spend the night on the dance floor (although we have plenty of couples that do!!!) People love to dance with you and create memories on the dance floor. When thinking of music, lets us know if there are certain songs you want to be saved for when you are on the floor!