



Why & when could I have live music?

Why you should choose live music - When to have music – How many songs to choose – Tips & ideas

Firstly, **congratulations!** It is such an exciting time! Planning a wedding is a lot of fun but can also be *quite overwhelming*, especially these days with so many wonderful ideas out there! I wanted to create this *short guide*, to help you decide whether to have live music on your day and what the various points are in your day to have this. Below you'll find **guidance** and some **top tips** that I've learnt from **real weddings**.

Right, should I or shouldn't I?

Live music VS pressing play on the iPad... What does live music do that a playlist doesn't?

- ✓ Live musicians create a special atmosphere
- ✓ It is engaging for guests
- ✓ It personalises your day even more
- ✓ It gives your guests an eye catching performance
- ✓ It enables you to tailor the music to suit the atmosphere you want to create
- ✓ It allows you to create an Entrance song just as you imagine it
- ✓ If you are having children at your wedding, it is entertaining and inspiring to them
- ✓ It enables you to adapt songs to be played in exactly the style and speed that you want

These are just a few reasons! Musicians elevate any event, by their performance, their character & style and their delivery of songs.

Now let's move on to when you can have live music and how to decide.

- ✓ **The arrival of guests** – It is a lovely time to have live music as it enables you to set the tone and atmosphere for your day. It is a lovely way to naturally calm any nerves and soften the setting as your guests arrive and is also a beautiful talking point for your guests. Typically, you have 15-30 minutes of music before your Ceremony begins, as your guests are arriving at your venue and mingling with each other.
- ✓ 5-6 songs cover around 15 minutes and 10-12 songs would cover 30 minutes.
Tip – If you wanted to give your partner a special moment...this is a lovely time to let them choose the music. You'll be busy getting ready with your Bridal party and this isn't a time that you will really hear the music, so allowing your partner to choose their favourite songs is a nice touch. They can choose songs that make them feel how they want to in this moment or choose songs that remind them of you in advance of your arrival.
- ✓ **The Ceremony** – It is very popular now to have live music during wedding ceremonies, not least because it is very romantic to have live musicians playing, just for you. There is nothing quite like hearing that first note of music, as your partner turns to look at you walking down the aisle and you take your first steps towards them. It makes is extra special and very personal.
- ✓ **The reception drinks** – It is very elegant to have live music during your drinks reception and a lovely way to personalise it for your guests. The couple is typically away having photographs taken for a lot of this time (which many don't realise!) so as an extra personal touch, you could choose songs that your guests enjoy or even ask them on the invitations what their favourite songs are to have some included. It makes a good talking point and guests also enjoy interacting with musicians too.
- ✓ **The wedding breakfast** – Now this is often the time that couples tend to switch from live music to a playlist. But! It is very popular to have live music up to the speeches which is a lovely way to settle in you and your guests to the meal. Again, it is very soothing to have live music playing in the background as you take to your seats and enjoy your food, before the party gets started!

Live music has a wonderful way of touching people's hearts. I've lost count of how many times we have made people cry during performances! But to us that is the most meaningful thing and means that we have done a good job. It brings the songs to life and creates a beautifully elegant atmosphere for your day.