

## Questions to Ask Ceremony & Cocktail Hour Musicians

- Has the musician (or group) played many weddings?
- Can you hear him or her play or sing, either privately or at a public performance (if you haven't already)? Request a tape.
- Is the musician familiar with the music you want? Must you supply sheet music?
- Will the musician bring his or her own equipment (music stands, microphones, and so on), or do you or the site need to supply it?
- How much room will the musician need?
- If you're hiring a vocalist or additional musicians to be accompanied by the church organist or other in-house musicians, will everyone be available to rehearse before your wedding and at the ceremony rehearsal?
- What will the musician wear?
- How much setup time is needed?
- What is the musician's fee for a wedding ceremony (probably about two hours of work)? Must you pay travel expenses as well?

### ASK CARLEY

## Reception Music Etiquette & Issues

### **Q: How do we choose between a band and a DJ?**

**A:** Beyond budget, there are three factors: (1) authenticity—with a DJ, the songs you hear will be the original versions you're familiar with, whereas a band will play their own interpretations; (2) the action factor—live entertainment has a different feel than recorded music; and (3) space considerations.

### **Q: What do we do for music during the cocktail hour?**

**A:** Cocktail hours need their own ambiance and are often a good place to be more unique or eclectic musically. Interesting options are a klezmer, steel-drum, bluegrass, or mariachi band. Also consider asking whether a few of the reception-band members are available to be your jazz combo or torch-song quartet during cocktails. You'll just tack the extra fee onto what you're already paying, as opposed to contracting with a whole new group. Do make sure they are going to sound different, not just like a smaller version of the band your guests will hear later.

### **Q: Do we have to play those silly wedding songs like the Hokey Pokey, Chicken Dance, and Electric Slide at our wedding?**

**A:** Of course not, and if you don't want them, be clear with your entertainment about it. But if you dig deep down into your subconscious, we'll bet you actually like at least one of those wacky dances! The bottom line is that these group events are fun and familiar. It's completely up to you whether to omit or keep them, but consider your guests' preferences when you decide. And keep in mind that they're a great way to get people out on the dance floor.