

Tips for Choosing Your Wedding Songs & Reception Music

Your wedding reception music can play a big part in how much your guests enjoy the reception! Every song played brings on a unique emotion and memory for every person in the room and the mood of the room as a whole. Some people may love a certain song whilst others might find it nostalgic.

Songs that are chosen during the reception can reflect your own style of music taste and the type of atmosphere you want to create – keeping in mind your guests may not have the same music tastes as you. The right song selections will have your guests relaxed during the formalities and partying when it's time to get their groove on.

First you have to decide if you are having live entertainment and/or a DJ. If you are having live entertainment during dinner, be it classical trios, acoustic guitar, piano etc you may want a DJ for the dancing part of your reception. Alternatively, if the live entertainment is more of a party band, you may need some DJ easy listening music for during dinner.



Below is a general wedding reception timeline. It is entirely up to the Bride & Groom which traditions and music they want to incorporate into their wedding. I have listed 10 songs for each wedding event to give you an idea of what has been popular at past weddings

Bridal Party Introduction

This works well as an upbeat styled song that people can clap & make some noise to as the Bridal Party enters the venue. The Bride and Groom can have their own song after the Bridal Party has been introduced. A slow song can make the entrance more elegant if timed right by the DJ & MC.

Title	Artist	Year
All you need is Love	Beatles	1967
Another one bites the dust	Queen	1980
Are you gonna be my girl	Jet	2003
Celebration	Kylie Minogue	1992
Ch-Check It Out	Beastie Boys	2004
Crazy in Love	Beyonce'	2003
Crazy Little thing called love	Michael Buble'	2003
Heaven	DJ Sammy	2002
I'm a believer	The Monkees	1966
You're First, Last, Everything	Barry White	1974

Dinner & Easy Listening Music

If there is a mixed generation of guests, all genres of easy listening music can work well during dinner. This list can include the favourite easy listening songs of the Bride and Groom also. Playing 3 songs from each genre is a good amount of songs to create an interesting mix for the guests. The same genre can get a little repetitive.

Title	Artist	Year
Big Yellow Taxi	Counting Crows	2002
Dreams	Fleetwood Mac	1977
Fever	Michael Buble	2003
Fields of Gold	Sting	1993
Heaven (Candlelight Mix)	DJ Sammy	2003
I Got a Woman	Ray Charles	1954
Lola's Theme (Lounge Mix)	Shapeshifters	2004
No Other Way	Jack Johnson	2005
Wicked Game	Chris Isaak	1989
Your Song	Elton John	1970

Cake Cutting

The cake cutting song can be a favourite of the Bride and Groom. A slow tempo, romantic song works well for this part of the reception. Songs that have sugar and sweet references have been popular at previous weddings. Some songs used include..

Title	Artist	Year
All My Life	K-Ci and JoJo	1998
Better be good to me	Tina Turner	1985
Cruisin	Huey Lewis and Paltrow	2000
For the Longest Time	Billy Joel	1983
Grow Old with you	Adam Sandler	1998
Happy Together	Turtles	1967
How Sweet it is	Marvin Gaye	1964
I can't help myself (Sugar Pie)	Four Tops	1965
I got you babe	Sonny and Cher	1965
That's Amore	Dean Martin	1953

First Dance / Bridal Waltz

The first dance is traditionally the most important song of your wedding reception. This is the first dance of the newly married couple as husband and wife. You can learn a specific dance for this song be it a traditional waltz or the Bride & Groom's favourite slow dance song. If you are using live entertainment for your first dance, make sure you hear a recording of the song that way you know what to expect at your reception. Their version may sound a lot different to the original if it's a cover.

Title	Artist	Year
Amazed	Lonestar	1999
Amazing	Alex Lloyd	2001
At Last	Ella James	1961
Best Friend	Tim McGraw	1999
Crazy Love	Van Morrison	1969
Hero	Enrique Iglesias	2001
I'll make love to you	Boyz II Men	1994
Into my arms	Nick Cave	1998
Into the Mystic	Van Morrison	1970
Show me Heaven	Maria McKee	1990
Your Song	Elton John	1970

Father and Daughter Dance & Mother and Son Dance

The FD Dance and MS Dance represents a dance with the Bride and her Father and Groom and his Mother. This can be made as a "parents of the bride and groom's dance" or a dance with the Bride & Grooms representatives. 1 or 2 slow songs after the first dance works well before the party dancing songs.

Father and Daughter Dancing Songs

Title	Artist	Year
Isn't she Lovely	Stevie Wonder	1976
Memories	Elvis Presley	1968
My Girl	The Temptations	1964
The Best	Tina Turner	1989
Wind beneath my wings	Bette Midler	1989

Mother and Son Dancing Songs

Title	Artist	Year
Always on my mind	Elvis Presley	1972
Blessed	Elton John	1995
L-O-V-E	Natalie Cole	2000
Mama	Il Divo	2004
Sweet Child O Mine	Guns N Roses	1988

Dancing Music

A good DJ or Party band will keep a nice balance between tactful (not so cheesy) and fun songs to keep the dancefloor moving. Considering only 20 to 25 songs are played per hour there is no need to supply a huge list of songs for your entertainment.

It's a good idea to give the entertainment a list of say 20 of your "must plays", a few "play if you cans" and a few "do not play" songs.

If most of the guests are a similar age, music from their generation works well but if you have a large age range attending mixing up the music from all genres keeps everyone happy!

Title	Artist	Year
All Night Long	Lionel Ritchie	1983
Blame it on the Boogie	Michael Jackson	1979
Can't get no Satisfaction	Rolling Stones	1965
Eagle Rock	Daddy Cool	1971
I don't feel like dancing	Scissor Sisters	2006
Play that funky Music	Wild Cherry	1976
Sexyback	Justin Timberlake	2007
Signed Sealed Delivered	Stevie Wonder	1970
Twist and Shout	The Beatles	1963
Yeah	Usher	2004

Anniversary Dance

The longest married couple at the wedding reception can have their own special slow dance tribute. This is great to recognise their length of marriage and an opportunity for another "romantic" slow dancefloor song.

Bouquet Toss

Traditionally, the single and un-married ladies gather around as the Bouquet is tossed by the bride. Whoever catches the bouquet is the next in-line to get married. This can accompany a game of some sort where the winner is given the bouquet also.

Title	Artist	Year
Ain't no other man	Christina Aguilera	2006
All I wanna do	Cheryl Crow	1994
Barbie Girl	Aqua	1997
Don't Cha	Pussycat Dolls	2006
Express Yourself	Madonna	1989
Foxy Lady	Jimi Hendrix	1967
Girl you'll be a woman soon	Urge Overkill	1994
Hollaback Girl	Gwen Stefani	2005
Jump	Van Halen	1984
Just a girl	No Doubt	1995

Garter Removal & Toss

As the Garter is removed by the Groom, a sexy song can be played. This can also accompany a game of some sort where the winner receives the Garter. Once the garter is removed it is tossed to the single and unmarried men and whoever catches it is traditionally the next in-line to get married.

Title	Artist	Year
Bad to the Bone	George Thorogood	1982
Bad Boys	Inner Circle	1987
Eye of the Tiger (Rocky)	Survivor	1982
Fever	Peggy Lee	1958
Freak Me	Silk	1993
I'm too sexy	Right said Fred	1991
It's raining men	The Weather Girls	1982
Jaws Theme	John Williams	1975
Jump Around	House of Pain	1992
Kiss	Tom Jones	1988

Last Dancing Songs

These last couple of songs for the night should be a climax to a great celebration that everybody can dance to.

Farewell Music for Circle

The farewell music can be 2 or 3 of the Bride and Grooms favourite songs (or more for the larger amount of guests). These are the songs played whilst the Bride and Groom farewell their guests via a circle or bridal archway (Made by the guests).

The Circle is a great way to say thank you to every guest that has attended your wedding and the Bridal Archway can be a quick and upbeat exit.

Title	Artist	Year
Come Away with me	Norah Jones	2003
L-O-V-E	Michael Buble	2007
Sea of Love	Honeydrippers	1984
Somewhere over the rainbow	Israel Kamakawiwo'ole	2005
This Old Love	Lior	2005
Time of your Life	Green Day	1997
Unforgettable	Nat King Cole	1954
What a wonderful world	Louis Armstrong	1967
You're my best friend	Queen	1976
You're still the one	Shania Twain	1999

Whatever songs and genres you choose for your wedding reception, make sure they reflect your own style and at the same time will be appropriate for your guests to enjoy themselves.

Wishing you a great wedding day,
Cheers,

Adrian Makarov - Goldbass Records DJ Services

www.goldbass.com.au