

# Jazz Up Your Wedding!

## TIPSHEET

Jazz Up Your Wedding! is run by Emma Hutchinson who used to be a professional events manager. As the singer in the band she performs at 1-3 functions every week and is happy to offer the following tips about hiring our band for your wedding:

1. When making an enquiry please tell me whether you want the band for background music or music for dancing as this has a bearing on the size of band and the type of musicians. A duo or trio with, say, vocals/keyboards+ sax is great for background music, but for dance music you must have a drummer and you may like to have guitar or trumpet as well.
2. How big is the room the band will be playing in, and how many guests are you having? Both these factors affect the size of the band required. Why pay for a six piece band if you're only having 50 people in a small room? I'm happy to advise on suitable band line-ups and to recommend the right size of band for you.
3. It's a good idea to have a band that plays a variety of music which suits the wide age range you typically get at a wedding. For example we play swing, blues, latin jazz, lounge, soul, funk & disco. For an evening reception we often play a jazz set followed by a funk/soul/disco set. Or you may fancy having background jazz during your drinks reception followed by soul & funk for dancing in the evening.
4. Are you thinking of having music during the wedding breakfast? I would recommend either sticking to recorded music or having solo piano, or at most a duo. Anything more tends to intrude on the proceedings and adds unnecessary cost. You are welcome to use our microphone for speeches and announcements if we are already set up at the venue.
5. How long should the live music go on for? During an evening reception we generally play two or three sets of music over a 3 hour period (eg 2 x 1 hr or 3 x 40 min sets). Drinks receptions usually call for 1 x 90 min continuous set or 2 x 45 min sets played over a 2 hour period. If you're looking for longer playing times please let me know and I'll quote accordingly.
6. Have recorded music between sets to keep the party going. We provide appropriate music on iPod. Better still put together your own party mix on CD or iPod for us to play through our sound system. That way you can basically have your own disco playing all your faves in between our sets! For recorded music after we've finished playing why not ask your venue to provide a sound system? Alternatively, we are sometimes able to offer this facility for an additional charge, so please ask at the time of booking.
7. Timings – one of the reasons that 90% of weddings run late is because too many things are crammed into too little time. Do you really want a casino going on while the band is playing?! And why get the band to start playing immediately after dinner when everyone is too full to dance? Give your guests some time to go to the loo, relax a bit or have a walk round; the band can set up while this is going on. Less is often more and the most relaxed weddings give you, your friends and family time to chill out and have a good old catch-up.
8. Set list – we don't have pre-determined sets. This gives us the flexibility to go with the flow on the day and react accordingly with the best songs from our repertoire to maintain the atmosphere. You are welcome to choose a selection from our songlist and we'll include as many as we can, whilst making sure there is a good balance of music on the day.

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9. First Dance – I've known couples spend the whole of their wedding day dreading the first dance. Don't have a First Dance if you don't like dancing! But if you are having a First Dance - or would just like us to play a special song at some point during the evening - we are always happy to learn it for you, assuming it's a jazzy or soul song or a pop ballad. We do need 8 weeks notice though. If you'd prefer to have the original version we'll happily play your CD or iPod track through our soundsystem for you. Also, the First Dance doesn't have to be literally the first dance ie we can play a few songs or a whole set beforehand. This is often an easier way of doing it as it can be hard gathering all your guests together for the First Dance; once they hear the band they tend to gravitate towards the dancefloor/performing area and you've got them there ready to see you strut your stuff!
10. Seeing us live - we play almost exclusively at private functions and corporate events so it's not often possible to see the whole band perform live. The duo performs regularly at various Bristol venues, though, sometimes playing our wedding set and sometimes performing other material, so just let me know if you'd like a list of dates. If you'd really like to see the whole band, I can sometimes ask a bride and groom-to-be if it would be OK for you to pop your head 'round the door during their reception to watch the band for a few minutes. Also, if you've listened to us online but would also like to hear a CD (same tracks but some longer clips) please let me know and I'll pop one in the post to you.

## Other stuff you need to know:

### *Booking contract*

In order to book the band you have to pay a deposit and sign a booking contract which states clearly what time we will be setting up/de-rigging, how long we will play for, for how much and the payment terms etc.

### *Insurance*

As a member of the Musicians' Union we've got full Public Liability Insurance (£10 million). If your venue needs to see our Certificate just let me know and I'll email you a copy.

### *Illness*

Many great musicians work in the Jazz Up Your Wedding band (and they all know each other) so if one falls ill or gets called away on a tour with Scissor Sisters or whoever I can generally contact one of the other musicians to cover for them (I've never failed yet).

### *Performing area & setting up*

- We need about 3m x 3m to perform in (a bit more for the bigger bands) with a double 13 amp electrical socket.
- We arrive 1 hour before we are due to start playing although it only takes us 30 mins to set up if access etc is straightforward. If it's complicated (lots of stairs etc) we need an hour. *If you want us to set-up earlier be sure to discuss it with me prior to booking so as not to have any budgetary surprises – it will affect the price.*
- If we are playing outside we need a **flat dry area, with full cover from very hot sun/rain etc and power right on the playing area to plug ourselves into** - a normal double 13 amp electrical socket (into which we plug our extension leads) is fine but it must be under cover ie not exposed to the rain. If you need us to move rooms between sets please let us know at the time of booking.
- *NB if there is a Noise Limiter in the room we'll be performing in please let us know before signing our contract as unfortunately we may not be able to accept the booking.*

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## *Food & drink*

Unlimited soft drinks/tea/coffee/mineral water/juices should be available to the band, plus up to two free alcoholic drinks per person (we rarely use these, in practice). If we are travelling long distances or on site for quite a few hours we will require a meal (performing takes a lot of energy). We also need a changing-room (doesn't have to be anything flash but not the toilets).

## *Directions, unloading and parking*

The clearer and more detailed the information you give me beforehand, the easier it is for us to get to your venue on time, set up quickly and quietly and play beautifully! In particular, please let me know if there are codes for security barriers, access to unload through back/fire exits or lots of stairs (and no lift!). We have some heavy gear to carry, so we need to be able to unload as close as possible to the performing area.

## *Finally...*

The right band can really "make" your wedding. All our musicians are experienced professionals who play at an incredibly high standard. They are also reliable, dress appropriately and behave impeccably. We will always do everything we can to make sure you have great live music at your wedding. We look forward to being part of your big day!