



How to Make the Right Choice in Entertainment, from NH Wedding Magazine

Everyone has the perfect vision for their wedding. Each bride has dreamed of this day since they were a little girl. They know what type of dress they want to wear, the venue style that they want to have, the colors they want to incorporate in the flowers and bridesmaids dresses, and even the cake flavors. Now many have ever thought of what kind of entertainment they want for the ceremony and reception. This is a tough choice to make and only the bride and groom can make that decision.



Photo Courtesy of Daniel Doke Photography

How does someone make that decision about entertainment for their big day? It can only be based by their individual wedding style and personal likes. Do you want music during your ceremony? Do you want it only for the reception? Do you want live music with a string quartette or harpist during the ceremony? Do you want a DJ or a live band to stir up some non-stop dancing? These are all great questions you need to ask yourself when planning your wedding. Also, consider the attendees at your wedding. You don't want to have a live rock & roll band if your 75-person guest list consists of 50 of your elderly relatives.

If you are planning to have an intimate and romantic ceremony on the beach or somewhere secluded, you may want to consider an acoustic guitarist or a harpist, or some other small live music entertainer or singer. If it is at a church and you want a traditional piano or organ playing, most churches offer that or can help connect you with who they typically recommend or use. If you are planning a backyard wedding and BBQ combined, a DJ or a band can always play ceremony music for you, then reception music, however that is something you will want to ask when you interview with them. Most couples get married in one location then move the reception to another to get the celebration started. If this is the case for you, the opportunities are endless.

Once you decide on a venue and a style or theme of your wedding reception, this will allow you to make a better choice on your entertainment. If you are using a reception hall that is smaller and has low ceilings, you may want to consider how the music will sound. This will also help determine if you want a live band or DJ. If you are having it in a bard that is open, you can really go either route. If you are having it outside in the backyard under a tent or in the open, that works for either a DJ or band as well.



Photo Courtesy of Gibbons Photography



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Now, the big question is what type of music? You and your fiancé need to agree on the style of music played. If you hire a band, most already have their style of music they play whether it is pop, rock & roll, country or classical. A string quartet and harpist are the better choices for ceremony music, however if you are having a high-end glamorous wedding in the Trump Towers with a 7-course meal, that may be the answer for you for your reception. If you are having a backyard or barn wedding, you may want to country or rock & roll music. The good news is, you can still decide from either a band or DJ for this. Now don't forget other types of entertainment, like a photo booth! What about a cartoonist drawing guests throughout the night? Fun ideas, right?!

Now the biggest question that you may be wondering is, how do I locate all of these services? I want an acoustic guitar at my ceremony, but a DJ at my reception, and I want a photo booth and a cartoonist, but I don't want to have to do research, then interview and hire 4 different people. That is time consuming and exhausting! Hold onto your gown and tux folks, there are tips for you!

In this generation of entertainment, there are resources that can help you make your choices simple. The amount of resources out there ready to help you is astounding! You can locate these resources by either going online or simply go to bridal magazines or websites. When you find companies that have the word "entertainment" in the name, you need to ask them this question when you contact them: "Do you offer multiple options in entertainment?" If they answer yes,

then you tell them what you want and they will locate it for you. Most companies have many options of entertainment that they represent. They will have live bands of all genres, DJ's and acoustic musicians. By going online or looking at magazine resources, this will help you locate everything you want and need from bands and DJ's to photo booths and more! Attending bridal shows also gives you a personal meeting with these companies in a no-pressure setting. Often times you will see firsthand the product they offer because they will be set-up. Also, you can get good deals and discounts by attending the bridal show and talking with them.



Photo Courtesy of Gibbons Photography

Carrie Alex is the owner/publisher of the New Hampshire Wedding Magazine and has been in the bridal industry since she was 18 and loves to help couples of all ages find what they need to plan their special day. Check out New Hampshire Wedding Magazine's annual publication that is released January of each year, their website which is loaded with resources for any category, or attend one of their 6 annual bridal shows. You can sign up for their newsletter and stay on top of events via Facebook or their website, www.nhweddingmagazine.com.

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