

Special Report – *What Makes a Successful Wedding Reception*

We all know your wedding is about showing your family and friends your love for each other. It's also important that you throw a great party to celebrate that love and show everyone a great time. You will want to choose entertainment that not only your guests will be able to enjoy, but also reflects your own personal taste and style. Without a doubt, the “music” at a wedding can be the make or break of a fantastic reception; but so can the wedding entertainer. Family and friends will remember a wedding for years to come, and while they may not remember if they ordered the fish or the chicken, they will remember if the wedding entertainer engaged them, kept the reception moving, and whether or not they danced, laughed and had fun.

Couples have to answer a number of questions when thinking about their entertainment choice for their big day. Should you have a classic themed celebration or a modern style; Chiavari or banquet chairs; whether to hire a band or DJ? Whatever your choice, for a successful wedding reception, you want to ensure your wedding entertainer possess these four crucial elements:

- (1) **Proper Planning** – Does your wedding entertainer help with developing your timeline? Is that timeline provided to all the other vendors? How is the playlist developed and are you allowed to make additions to it? No matter the style of music, is it professionally purchased and obscenity free?
- (2) **Experience** – How long has your wedding entertainer been doing weddings? Are they a part of organizations for professional development and networking? Is your entertainer experienced at playing a number of styles of music to suit each stage of the reception?
- (3) **Interacting with Guests** – Does your wedding entertainer have an effervescent and energetic personality? Do they know how to interact and react to the mood of your guests? Does your wedding entertainer offer Master of Ceremony services? Do they know how to make well-placed announcements for key events such as your entrance, significant dances, cake cutting and grand exit?
- (4) **Working with Other Vendors** – Is your wedding entertainer professional? Do they know how to work with other vendors to ensure your wedding celebration is the best that it can be? You've probably seen a bride standing at the edge of the dance floor waiting, while someone searches for her father, because the DJ announced the Father/Daughter dance without ensuring the father was in the room and ready. Or, the photographer was out on smoke break while the cake was being cut, because the DJ didn't know how to coordinate with the other vendors.

Know that a successful reception is more than just the “music”. To make your reception the party that's talked about for years to come, ensure your wedding entertainer posses these four crucial elements.