

## Get the Best from your Wedding Entertainment

1. Choice of music – yes, it is your night. But, remember that there will likely be a wide range of people at your event. They may vary widely in age, mobility, and tolerance to loud music. So – whilst you might be a big fan of Slipknot, it might not suit everyone else. Good wedding bands will play hundreds of weddings, so they usually have a good view of what makes a good party – and usually it's a broad mix of songs from the '50s to the current decade. Sometimes a little ceilidh material helps the party spirit, and a good band should be able to help you with this.
2. Picking specific songs – fully live bands aren't jukeboxes, but they will have a well tested and rehearsed list of songs from which they choose. Don't be scared to ask for a specific first dance (Nightshift only ask that you give about six weeks notice of this), and if there are songs that you absolutely don't want played then say so !!
3. Bands aren't inflatable (!) – remember to allow appropriate setup time for the evening entertainment. A band like Nightshift will take around an hour to prepare, and they need access to the stage to do this – so if your top table is on the stage the setup can't begin until you're finished eating! Incidentally – it's OK if things run a little later than the schedule said – it's your day and nobody's going to get too wound up about when the first dance actually happens.
4. Check with the venue as to whether they have a sound limiter – Nightshift are pretty relaxed about playing under these conditions, but need to know about it ahead of time. Do bear in mind though that if a venue has particularly tight controls on the volume of music then a big band may not be appropriate. Incidentally – don't be scared to ask a band to turn up or down a little if you think your guests would like that – a good band will be able to play at whatever volume suits.
5. Musicians are pretty relaxed people – however, there are a couple of things that are quite important to them (despite what you might think, playing music is their job). So, you can help them do a better job by ensuring that your venue has somewhere for them to change clothes (and disabled toilets are not acceptable !). And, they will really be your friend if you can see your way to feeding them at some point during the evening – most bands are delighted to be invited to pick scraps from your buffet once the important guests are finished eating !!
6. Lastly – have a good time and don't be scared to ask for something that you really need – a professional band will tell you quickly whether it's possible or not. Some bands won't always allow guests onto the stage – often there are people who want to sing at a wedding– and whilst this might seem unfriendly it's actually because there will be thousands of pounds worth of equipment lying around and the stage can be a dangerous place. But – there are always exceptions !