

# NSW Entertainment

## Feature Article

Today's topic: Weddings

Let's face it , we would all want either Michael Buble in the flesh singing as we walk down the aisle or him on an MP3. But what other options are there and how do you choose?

Page 1



## Wedding Ceremony musicians versus the Ipods!

On your most special day, your wedding ceremony music, at it's very best, will enhance your cherished moments and help to create beautiful memories. Your families and wedding guests will compliment you on the music if it was beautifully and exquisitely performed. Memories of your wedding day will be greatly enhanced because of an exceptional quality performance by your solo violinist, string quartet or harpist. If your wedding is being video graphed, your wedding ceremony music needs to be of the highest quality.

### Why Should You Hire Professionals for Your Wedding Ceremony Music

Articles in some recent wedding magazines have extolled the virtues of booking student performers for wedding ceremony music as cost-efficient. I would like to caution anyone planning a wedding against heeding this advise, for the following reasons:

1. Inexperienced students or semi-professional performers generally do not offer a contract for their services.
2. They are unlikely to have references to verify their reliability or punctuality.
3. They are not familiar with cues and when to stop playing.
4. They are not experienced wedding ceremony musicians - your wedding may be a learning ground for them.

Continued on Page 2

### Checklist

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Insurance</b>  | Does the artist have public liability?                               |
| <b>Venues</b>     | Does the venue have a DB limit/volume meter?                         |
| <b>P.A Hire</b>   | What is the musicians equipment and is it sufficient?                |
| <b>Repertoire</b> | Will the musicians be able to cover the range of the songs you want? |
| <b>Photos</b>     | Do the musicians give you permission to use their images?            |



If you are unsure of whether you would like a solo pianist or a 7 piece band visit our website and watch some of our videos or listen to MP3s of our artists

## Music is the art of manipulating emotion through sound

### What to Ask a Wedding Ceremony Music Professional

For each ensemble you are interviewing, you should ask the following of their music director, music office or representative:

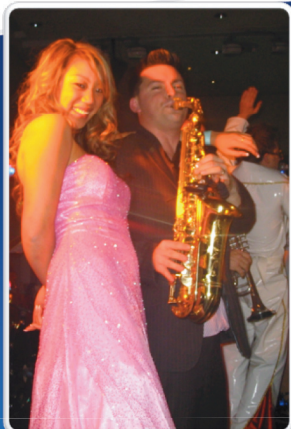
1. Request a CD or tape of their music. These days MP3s are easiest.
2. Ask for printed references from former brides or accredited entertainment industry professional agencies. You may also ask to see programs of or critical reviews from live concerts or a professional resume. These items will help to verify their professionalism and experience at past weddings, events or performances.
3. Inquire as to whether they may be performing somewhere where you can hear and meet them in person.
4. If it is a high quality ensemble which has captured your interest and their fee is a bit of a stretch for your budget, ask them if they are offering any current discounts or promotions. If they are not, you may consider reserving 1 or 2 musicians less than you had planned to have originally. If they are experienced and you like their sound this will be well worthwhile!
5. Try to get a feeling or "vibe" from their representative as to how they will treat you and all of your questions and concerns. Your impression of someone's willingness to work with you is a very important factor. (continued on next page)



### The best wedding music I have arranged..

In 2004 my wife asked me to organize the music for wedding ceremony of her friend. I met with the couple as I do with all my clients and we discovered they wanted the exact medley from "Moulin Rouge" containing 20 different musical excerpts, A full Concert sized Organ performing a chorale and a artist who could do Joshua Kadison "Beautiful in my Eyes". It came together and brought the house down, leading me to start

[www.nswentertainment.com.au](http://www.nswentertainment.com.au)



The above photo is from a wedding at Luna Park in Sydney where our main act The Smooth Groove is a recommended artist.

### The best wedding ceremony music I have heard

A few years ago I was asked to play at a friends wedding ceremony as the couple left the chapel. I arrived early and met the wedding guitarist/singer. I meet a lot of them and was ready for the usual corny music. But when he started the background pre wedding music it was the most appropriate Classical standard on the acoustic guitar which blended beautifully into "Ave Maria" which he sang with such passion as the bride walked down the aisle that all the women started to cry, even I choked up! It was a reminder to me of the role that music plays in conveying the power of the moment that you are in!

## Wedding musicians (cont)

If you prefer to meet with all of your wedding vendors, be sure to ask if this is possible before the wedding.

6. Inquire about their policy on contracts, deposits and overtime fees. Find out how “locked-into” their services you will be upon a mutually signed agreement. What happens if a musician has to be replaced at the last minute due to illness? If the ensemble you are interested in hesitates when you inquire about these particular concerns, I advise you to move on. However, if you are obtaining ceremony musicians through a band or a reputable music office, whom you already trust, then knowing exactly who will be performing your wedding ceremony music need not be an issue.



“Thanks to NSW Ent. for their professionalism with their contracts and artists which made my day so special”

Joanne Greeny, Belrose

### About the author

Jaime Gibson is the Co-Director of NSW Entertainment and Sydney’s top Corporate and wedding band The Smooth Groove.

Jaime studied a Bachelor of Music, 2 post graduate degrees in conducting and has organized entertainment for over 500 weddings and most of Sydney’s function centre’s and top corporate entities. A list of these is visible on the home page of [www.nswentertainment.com.au](http://www.nswentertainment.com.au)



For more information please visit our website and complete an enquiry form.