



How-To Guide

Selecting the Right DJ or Band for your Wedding

No bride or groom is born knowing how to select and hire wedding vendors, especially DJs and bands. This how-to guide will introduce you to the key criteria for evaluating wedding entertainment for your special day.

■ First, Congratulations!

Isn't getting engaged exciting? It may seem like a whole world of possibilities is opening for you. The sun may look just a bit brighter. You may find yourself smiling more. And the future may feel a little more certain.

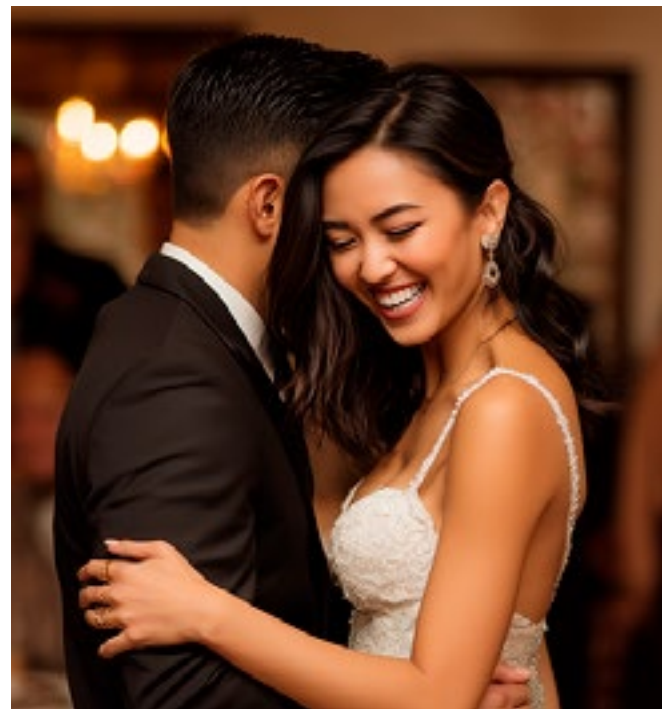
But if you're like most newly engaged couples, you may also find that you are expected to become an expert in wedding planning, vendor selection and project management... almost overnight.

The Internet is a great resource. But sometimes the information and reviews you find there can be biased. You can look to social media, but can you be sure your *musical* tastes are similar to those influencers you follow? You could ask recently married friends. But your wedding vision might be very different from theirs. Plus, you might want something new and different.

Or you could just hire the DJ you saw in the club. But they might not be a wedding DJ. They may not know how to accommodate your musical choices or manage the vibe of an evening that involves dinner, and wedding-specific events like first dances, cake cutting and bouquet tosses.

It's a bit strange: you're thrust into selecting a wedding entertainment vendor that can cost thousands of dollars and you have to become knowledgeable fast.

If you have experienced any of the above, we hope this guide will accelerate your learning and help you feel you are not alone!



“No one is born knowing how to select wedding vendors, especially DJs and bands.”

Auriary Sound Experiences (pronounced *OR-ee-air-ee*) is guided by professional DJs, musicians, audio engineers, and visual designers. Auriary blends cutting-edge audio technology with artistic storytelling to turn weddings into one-of-a-kind experiences. With hundreds of weddings and other live performances to their credit, the team at Auriary has decades of experience in live entertainment.

Contents

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | The “Watch Outs” with Wedding DJs and Bands | The challenges wedding entertainers can present before and during your wedding day and what to do to reduce them. |
|---|---|---|

| | | |
|---|-------|---|
| 6 | Sound | The three key questions you should ask to gauge the sound quality of a DJ or band, and the issues that arise with streaming music live. |
|---|-------|---|

| | | |
|---|----------|--|
| 9 | Lighting | The three key questions you should ask to ensure your wedding event looks like <i>an event</i> . |
|---|----------|--|

| | | |
|----|----------------|---|
| 12 | The Difference | Discovering what makes the DJ or band distinct and how that translates into your wedding day being uniquely remembered. |
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The “Watch Outs” with Wedding DJs and Bands

When it comes to DJs and bands, there are a number of behaviors that dissatisfy brides, grooms, family members, and guests. In your discussions with the DJs or bands you are considering, attempt to understand their point of view on these challenges and ask how they overcome them.

Bands



- **Songs sounding different than the originals** due to different instrumentation and singers.
- **Limited ability to honor requests** at the wedding because they must rehearse unknown songs.
- **Loud playing to match the volume of live drums**, which can fatigue guests over the course of the reception.
- **Taking too many breaks** and playing recorded music for 1-1.5 hours during an average 4-5 hour wedding reception engagement.
- **A “family” dynamic** with band members arguing, taking smoking breaks and eating expensive wedding entrées.
- **Treating your wedding as if it’s about them, not you.** Many bands forget they are there to support the reception rather than be the center of it.

DJs



- **Not playing tracks you requested** in advance.
- **Playing unwanted tracks** with explicit language or from genres you really don’t like.
- **Not honoring requests** from guests or family members for meaningful music because it’s inconvenient or the DJ doesn’t have the song.
- **Inferior song mixing** that doesn’t support the mood because the DJ lacks musical understanding and the emotional ability to “read the room”.
- **Substandard sound systems** that make the music too loud, harsh or boomy.
- **Heavy-handed, over-the-top MC-ing** that can take over the wedding when you don’t want it.
- **Not collaborating** with venue management, and photographers/videographers, which affects schedules and image quality.
- **Deficient backup plan** in the event of equipment failures.
- **Not trustworthy** due to lack of liability insurance coverage or formal contracts.

At Auriary Sound Experiences, we've built a performance and service model to address these challenges to ensure we provide a fundamentally superior experience.

Our team isn't made up of typical DJs. Auriary "experience jockeys" (EJs) are trained musicians and sound curators who modulate mood, tempo, and energy in real time — conductors of the evening who keep the narrative cohesive. We curate an experience in real time, backed by professional grade sound equipment and optional lighting and video — telling a story rather than spinning a list.



- **Auriary creates personalized wedding sound experiences** that go beyond music, transforming your love story into an emotional, immersive journey.
- **Sound is central to memory and atmosphere**, amplifying emotional moments and making your wedding day truly unforgettable.
- **Every experience is custom-built**, from ceremony soundscapes to high-energy receptions, using a library of 5,000+ curated tracks and professional sound systems.
- **Auriary's Experience Jockeys (EJs) are trained musicians** who modulate mood and tempo in real time, ensuring each moment aligns with your narrative.
- **Flexible packages and add-ons** include lighting, video projection, and on-site support—scaling seamlessly across all venue types and cultural traditions.

Sound

One of the questions many brides, grooms, and event planners ask the DJ or band they're considering is if their sound system is professional and sounds excellent. And the answer often ends up being about the brand of equipment they use, how much the equipment cost, or some vague statements like "I've never had any complaints."

But sound systems can be tricky, no matter what the brand or price. They can sound good in one event space and not as good in another. This has to do with the dynamics of the venue, the DJ or band's knowledge about acoustics, and their skill in adjusting those sound systems to compensate.

So the important questions to ask your DJ or band have less to do with their gear, and more to do with how they approach using it in your unique event space.



- ✓ **Balance**
- ✓ **Consistency**
- ✓ **Volume**

These are the three elements that professional sound engineers think about when they design and set up sound systems for concerts, festivals, clubs and mobile events. They are important to ask of your DJ or band.

1. Balance: The sound is intelligible. It has good bass, it has nice treble, and the middle is well supported. These words – bass, treble and middle – refer to specific frequencies in the audio spectrum of what we can hear.

2. Consistency: It sounds pretty good no matter where you are standing in the reception or dance area. It's not boomy in the bar area and shrill near the guest tables. And there

are no areas that sound dead or pinched due to speakers fighting with each other to deliver sound to your ears. Something sound engineers call comb filtering or phasing.

3. Good volume: It may be quieter during the early stages of the evening, like cocktail hour. And it may be louder when you're dancing into the wee hours. But it's never harsh, strident or painful.

The questions you want to ask your DJ or band about their sound system concern these 3 areas:

1. How do you ensure the sound will be balanced?
Listen closely for answers about how they analyze the sound of the event space. Is it by ear or by a real-time analyzer? What tools do they have to adjust the sound like equalization, exciters, compression and limiting. If

At Auriary Sound Experiences, we understand how to position speakers for ideal coverage and minimum phase issues. We confirm what our ears are telling us with our digital real time analysis, which allows us to adjust position, polarity and speaker crossover points for your individual event space to ensure we have the best sound for you. We also use audio processing called **exciters** and **limiting**.

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