



Tips for choosing your Wedding Entertainment

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Andy Wilsher Sings

www.andywilshersings.co.uk

Wedding Entertainment

Choosing your wedding entertainment can be one of the most rewarding parts of organising your wedding - this is your chance to set the theme and mood for your day, and to create a memorable experience for yourselves and your guests that reflects your personalities and really makes your day a celebration. Don't be put off by the wealth of options available. With a little time and planning, you'll find the perfect wedding entertainment that's just right for you.

My company, [Andy Wilsher Sings](http://www.andywilshersings.co.uk), specialises in Wedding Entertainment. For the past twelve years I have performed, on average, at two weddings per week. Here are some suggestions for your own special day that I have collected over time to help inspire you.

Getting Started

- ✦ In general, it's helpful to choose the venue(s) for your ceremony and reception before deciding on your entertainment, so that you can find out whether a venue has any special restrictions that might affect your choices.
- ✦ Remember that entertainment doesn't only have to take place at the reception. There will be times when not much is going on (during photographs, for example), which are great opportunities to put on some unique entertainment to personalise your day. You might also want to have some live music during your ceremony.
- ✦ Plan your wedding entertainment as far in advance of your Big Day as possible. Wedding bands and performers are often booked well in advance, and booking early will ensure you avoid disappointment.
- ✦ Have fun thinking about the style of entertainment you want, and don't be afraid to get creative! Spend some time considering whether you would prefer formal or informal entertainment (or a mix), whether you'd prefer recorded music or live performers, whether you'd like to have any outdoor entertainment, and so on. Ask your friends and family to help you brainstorm - after all, they'll be a big part of the Big Day!

The Wedding Ceremony

Many couples choose music or songs that are special to them to play during the ceremony. This can set a lovely mood and help create a really personal, special atmosphere. It also means that whenever you hear that music in the future, you'll be reminded of your special day!

It's a good idea to talk to your wedding official before settling into the task of choosing music for your ceremony. Depending on the venue and type of ceremony, there may be specific guidelines about which music can be used. They may also be able to help you by giving some recommendations if you aren't sure where to start. If you're in need of inspiration, remember to ask your friends and family for tips - you'll get lots of ideas and everyone will appreciate feeling included.

You may like to consider having live music during your ceremony, or perhaps a performance of a song that has meaning for you. There are plenty of possibilities to personalise your ceremony and express yourselves, even if you prefer a more traditional style.

The aspects of your ceremony you could consider include :-

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| ✦ <i>The Prelude</i>
This is the period during which guests arrive at your venue, and music here can help set the mood for the rest of the day. | ✦ <i>Interludes</i>
Breaks or transitions during the ceremony offer a nice chance for music. |
| ✦ <i>The Procession</i>
You might like to choose your own music to play as your wedding party enters. | ✦ <i>The Recession</i>
The perfect time to choose something upbeat and celebratory to play as the wedding party leaves the venue. |
| ✦ <i>The Bride's Entrance</i>
Choose music for your entrance that means something to you - this is your moment! | ✦ <i>The Postlude</i>
The period during which guests leave the ceremony offers yet another opportunity to personalise your wedding with music. |

Reception Drinks / Canapés and Photographs

Allow around an hour and a half for your reception drinks and/or canapés, and for the photographer to get plenty of good shots. This is a great opportunity to choose some entertainment for your guests that's a little different, especially if you're planning a summer wedding and there's space to entertain your guests outdoors. This is the perfect chance to get everyone into the party mood in anticipation of the evening reception!

There are all sorts of options for entertainment during this period. Here are some classic suggestions as well as some less traditional ideas to get you inspired - above all, remember to choose something that reflects your personality or that you know is perfect for your guests!

Keep it classic...

- ✦ A singer (Swing or Jazz)
- ✦ A string quartet
- ✦ A guitarist or harpist
- ✦ A pianist
- ✦ A magician

.... or break the mold!

- ✦ Giant Connect Four or Jenga
- ✦ Laser Clay Pigeon Shooting
- ✦ Croquet
- ✦ Arcade games or Scalextric
- ✦ Bouncy castle

Wedding Breakfast

For 80 to 100 sit-down guests allow at least two and a half hours for a three course Wedding Breakfast, to include speeches, toasts and the cake-cutting.

Your Wedding Breakfast gives you another opportunity to think about wedding entertainment. You might like to have background music - either recorded or live - playing during your meal. If you prefer live music, you could hire a singer, string quartet, harpist, jazz band or other performer to play.

You could also hire a magician, caricaturist or other entertainer to mingle with the guests at their tables between courses.

After the Wedding Breakfast, allow between an hour and an hour and a half for the venue staff to change the room round for the evening reception, for your day guests to relax and for your evening guests to arrive. This is the perfect time to think about some form of entertainment to ease your guests into the party spirit following their meal :-

- ✦ An ice cream van
- ✦ Chinese Dragon Dancers
- ✦ A magician
- ✦ A street dance act

This is also the time during which any evening entertainment you've booked should be arriving to set up.

The Evening Reception

If you have a DJ, consider having them arrive early to supply background music while your evening guests arrive. Most couples traditionally start the evening reception at about 8.30pm with their first dance - your special song, either recorded or sung live by a singer. The first dance is often followed by 45 minutes to an hour of live music on a theme, such as Rat Pack or Swing music.

If you have planned an evening buffet, you could serve it between 9.15 and 9.30pm or as the live set finishes (it's a good idea not to serve the buffet during live music). This is also an ideal time to have a 5 or 10 minute spot for dancers. You could hire Irish Dancers, Street dancers, or our very own Showgirls, to suit your style and to provide some entertainment while guests enjoy their buffet... or you could have a DJ start playing your disco music.

Once your guests have eaten they'll be ready for a second set of live entertainment at around 10pm. This is a nice time to introduce a tribute act, such as my Michael Bublé or Robbie Williams show, or for a singer or band of your choice to play.

A DJ traditionally provides a disco for the rest of the evening (usually until around midnight).

And don't forget to consider less traditional forms of entertainment - if it's something you and your guests will enjoy or that means something special to you, anything goes!

✦ A chocolate fountain

✦ Games tables (Roulette, etc)

✦ Funfair sidestalls

✦ A photo booth

✦ Lookalikes

That's it from us! Remember to have fun choosing your entertainment, and be sure to check our website at www.andywilshersings.co.uk if you're considering a wedding singer - we'd love to help entertain you on your special day!