

QUESTIONS YOU  
SHOULD ASK  
WHEN  
**Hiring A DJ**

ROB PETERS ENTERTAINMENT



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# QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD ASK WHEN HIRING A DJ

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Choosing entertainment for an event can often be a confusing and overwhelming experience, especially if you don't know what to ask. To most couples, entertainment is one of the most important things to take under consideration when planning their wedding. Great entertainment includes music that will set the appropriate mood, and a skilled Master of Ceremonies that will gracefully guide your guests from one spotlight moment to another throughout your event. Practically speaking, the best performers are often booked well in advance. So put a move on it, or you may be stuck doing "The Chicken Dance" with Uncle Edgar.

To get you started, we've put together this list of questions that will help you evaluate a Dj to determine if they will be a good fit for you and your event. **Note:** Instead of interviewing a specific performer or DJ yourself, you might be dealing with an entertainment agency rep. If this is the case, make sure you will have an opportunity to meet your DJ in person.

### QUESTIONS

**1. Do you have my date open?**

**2. How would you describe your style?**

**What You Will Need to Know:** Will their style will work with the vibe you're going for. If you want an elegant cocktail party with lots of casual conversation, a DJ that describes themselves as "really rockin and rollin' with a whole lot of edge", will most likely be a music mismatch.

**3. Have you done events at my ceremony and/or reception location before? If not, are you familiar with them?**

**4. How many weddings have you done? How many do you do in an average weekend?**

**5. What sets you apart from your competitors?**

**6. How far in advance do I need to secure your services?**

7. **Can you provide me with 3–4 recent brides that I can contact for references?**
8. **Can you play the songs that are important to us, such as a traditional Jewish hora tune or a favorite pop hit?**

**What You Should Know:** The DJ should be able to play or download any tune you'd like. After all, this is your wedding and a professional should tailor their performance to your requests.

9. **Do you plan to use lighting or any other special effects?**

**What You Need to Know:** Beyond music, some pros will bring special lighting and/or effects, such as a fog machine, while others will stick to the tunes. If your pro does amp up his performance with specific effects, they may be standard or they may cost extra. So be sure to ask and get all prices written into your contract. If your DJ is using fog, make sure that you get the approval from your reception venue.

10. **Who will do the setup?**

**What You Need to Know:** The day of the wedding, someone needs to set up the sound system, which is usually someone from the company supplying the music. You'll need to give the name of the person to the venue coordinator, and arrange a time that works for everyone.

11. **How do you ensure a comfortable sound level for all the guests?**

**What You Need to Know:** You want to have a plan for dealing with volume control and sound-sensitive guests. Here's the deal, what your 14-year-old cousin thinks is the perfect volume is different from what your 98-year-old great-grandma is willing to put up with. If you have a fun dance-off going on, you don't want people who aren't participating to have to shout like they're at a crowded bar.

## 12. What do you typically wear?

**What You Need to Know:** A potential band or DJ will usually have several professional, unobtrusive choices for you to pick from, such as a tuxedo or simple coordinated outfits, like black shirts and slacks.

## 13. How many hours are included in the package?

**What You Need to Know:** Some DJs will have a minimum amount of time they will play. Beyond that, you'll also want to know how many breaks they'll need, and how long the breaks will be. You should also find out if there is a backup plan for those breaks (such as approved filler music). Tip: Be sure to build in these breaks and offer food to your musicians—you don't want their energy to flag before the last dance!

## 14. How do you handle song requests?

**What You Need to Know:** What will the protocol be for making sure your guests hear their favorite tunes? (If you even want them to have that creative control.) A particular pro may prefer to get requests in certain ways (probably not shouted at him while he's working).

## 15. Can you act as the Master of Ceremonies?

**What You Need to Know:** It isn't guaranteed that your bandleader or DJ will introduce the speech givers, announce your first dance, or tell people when dinner is served. Sometimes, a planner will do that or even the best man or maid of honor. Clarify this before you hire them.

## 16. How many weddings do you typically do in a year?

**What You Need to Know:** You're trying to determine how experienced they are. You will need to know how long they've been doing weddings, as well as how often they are booked. This is important to help you understand how well they will be able to handle your dance floor. Ask to speak to some previous couples. Online

reviews tell some of the story, but being able to chat directly with couples who used this band or DJ can give you a clearer picture of what they're like to work with.

#### 17. Do you have another wedding gig before or after ours?

**What You Need to Know:** If they don't have anything after, ask what the overtime fees are if the party is still cranking past the end of the time on your contract. If they have one before, ask what will happen if the other event runs over.

#### 18. Do you have liability insurance?

**What You Need to Know:** You need to be sure you, your venue and guests are protected in case of an accident. A true pro will offer to show you their certificate.

### PRICING AND OTHER BUSINESS DETAILS

- What is your pricing? Does this include the setup and breakdown between ceremony and reception locations?
- How much is the deposit and when is it due? When is the final payment due?
- If the event lasts longer than scheduled, what are the overtime charges?
- When can I expect to receive my contract from you?
- Are there any additional fees that could accrue that I am not taking into account, such as travel expenses or parking?
- If for some reason I need to cancel or alter my date, what is your refund policy?
- Do you carry liability insurance?

#### Useful Tips:

Discuss any restrictions that might affect your event with your site manager, such as noise limits, a music curfew, or availability/load of electrical circuits. Also check with your facility and caterer about where and what to feed the performers.

All professional entertainers have access to formal wear (if they don't, that's your first clue they're not professionals!) However, it is your responsibility to be specific about how you expect your performers to be dressed.

Make notes of your general music preferences before you meet with your DJ, so you can give them an idea about what you are looking for. For example, you may want Classical for the ceremony, Rat Pack-era for the cocktail hour, and a set of Motown during the reception. Not only will this help you determine which entertainment professionals are a good match for you, it will guide them in preparing for your wedding.

### Conclusion:

In today's world, it is very easy to get started as a DJ. And to most engaged couples, entertainment is one of the most important things to them when it comes to the success of their wedding. Therefore, the questions I have outlined above will help guide you in choosing an entertainer who you will be most comfortable with. Best of luck....and congratulations on your upcoming wedding!

### Special Offer:

**SAVE \$250 off any Wedding DJ Entertainment service from Rob Peters Entertainment. Call our office TODAY at 781-848-4235 to schedule an appointment to meet with us. Be sure to mention this ebook when calling.**

*(Offer is subject to availability and cannot be combined with any other discounts. Valid on New bookings only. Services are subject to terms and conditions of a service agreement from Rob Peters Entertainment.)*

## Comparison Chart

To help you in your planning process, we have included this worksheet to help you when interviewing prospective DJs for your wedding.

<b>Company</b>			
<b>Telephone</b>			
<b>Website</b>			
<b>Date Available?</b> <i>Is my date available?</i>			
<b>Familiar w/Venue?</b>			
<b>Liability Insurance?</b>			
<b>Who is my DJ?</b> <i>When dealing an agency, ask who the DJ will be and if you can meet them prior to booking.</i>			
<b>Backup DJs?</b> <i>What is the policy if your DJ becomes ill or is unable to perform on your wedding day?</i>			
<b># Of Weddings</b> <i>How many weddings has this DJ done and how many will they be doing on my wedding day?</i>			
<b>Attire ?</b> <i>How will my DJ be dressed to perform at my wedding?</i>			
<b>Price?</b>			
<b>Overtime?</b>			
<b>Additional Fees?</b> <i>Parking fees, travel expenses, etc.</i>			
<b>Initial Payment/Deposit?</b> <i>What is the down payment and when is it due ?</i>			
<b>Final Balance Due Date?</b> <i>When is the final balance due?</i>			
<b>Written Agreement?</b> <i>Will I receive a written agreement?</i>			
<b>References?</b> <i>Ask for at least 3 and ask to speak with them or see video testimonial.</i>			