

Five Steps to an Awesome Wedding Playlist

Have you ever heard the phrase: "How do you eat an elephant?" The answer: *One bite at a time.*

It's **REALLY** overwhelming to pick out the right songs for a wedding reception, especially if you don't have a method. (That's where I come in.)

After more than two decades of helping brides make music decisions, here's the shortest path to selecting songs everyone at the wedding will enjoy:

The Big Ones - The first dance, the grand entrance, the bouquet tossing, the cake cutting, the song you'll dance with your dad to ... the important ones that mean the most. Check these off first.

The Don't Plays - You're not hurting anyone's feelings by telling the DJ not to play "Livin' La Vida Loca". Generally speaking, a great DJ will stay away from the cheesy and cliché choices, unless you specifically ask for them. But, if you want that extra peace of mind ... Go for it.

The Signatures- If you attended Penn State, you're probably going to want to hear "Hey Baby". If you went to Villanova, you'll possibly request "Rosalita". Maybe your friends and family really like the B-52s... These are not the songs a DJ would typically play at a reception unless they mean something to you and yours.

The Mushy Stuff- Typically, the dancing portion of the reception will include a handful of slow songs. The classic Etta James and Frank Sinatra choices are pretty terrific for that time, since they're accessible to all ages. But what about your cocktail and dinner hours? Why not pick some great tunes to play during dinner that won't put people to sleep? Keep in mind, music doesn't have to be sleepy to be romantic.

The Jams - It's a pretty solid idea to hold off until three to four weeks before your wedding to choose something from the Top 40 charts. Remember "Harlem Shake"? That song was popular for about 20 minutes. Wait until you're in the home stretch before you start plugging in the newest hits.

Now that you have a starting point and a clear destination, you're ready to start building your music list.

Having this ready for your DJ makes you a dream client -- but you don't have to do any of the above if you don't want to! If you've hired a professional DJ who entertains weddings every week, you don't have to feel like you're required to pick every song. Trust your DJ, and let THEM do most of the heavy lifting. They'll be happy to make suggestions, fill in gaps, and even handle requests from your guests as the night goes on. Your job is to dance the night away, knowing that you've made great musical choices.

Steve Croce possesses over 20 years of successful wedding entertainment and event direction. As an award-winning DJ (*Top Ten Entertainer of the Year Award, DJ Times*) and a wedding professional quoted in several publications, Steve offers a broad range of experience, creativity, and music knowledge. He can be reached at stevecroce@silversound.com or 610-640-0838.

