

Wedding Music Planner & Hiring Checklist

A moment-by-moment workbook for choosing, comparing, and booking the right musicians for your wedding day. Print it, fill it in, and bring it to every conversation with talent.

Companion to the guide “Guide to Hiring Wedding Musicians” · arrivebooking.com/en/blog

1 Plan the Music, Moment by Moment

A wedding is three events in one. Decide the sound and talent for each before you book.

Moment	Vibe you want	Talent type	Key songs
Ceremony — processional			
Ceremony — recessional			
Cocktail hour			
Reception — dinner			
First dance			
Reception — dancing			

Band, DJ, or both? A band brings spectacle; a DJ brings range and exact recordings. Many couples pair a ceremony/cocktail musician for atmosphere with a band or DJ for the reception.

2 What to Look For

- ☐ Real wedding experience — weddings have cues, timing, and emotional stakes
- ☐ Reviews from actual couples (not just a highlight reel)
- ☐ Flexibility on repertoire, including your first-dance / processional song
- ☐ A clear backup plan if a player is sick or gear fails
- ☐ The ability to read the room and make light announcements if needed

3 Questions to Ask Before You Book

Question	Their answer
Will you learn our first-dance / processional song? Any fee?	
Do you bring a PA and play music between sets?	
How do you handle requests and a do-not-play list?	
Attire, breaks, and overtime policy?	
Are travel, setup, and sound check included?	

4 Compare Offers on Delivered Cost

The cheapest quote is rarely the cheapest booking. Compare the all-in cost, not the headline rate.

Line item	Option A	Option B	Option C
Act / ensemble			
Base fee & hours included	\$	\$	\$
Travel / setup / sound check	\$	\$	\$
Learning a custom song	\$	\$	\$
Overtime rate	\$	\$	\$
Total delivered cost	\$	\$	\$

5 Lock the Details in Writing

Get every one of these into the booking agreement before you pay a deposit.

- ☐ Set times for ceremony, cocktail, and reception
- ☐ Confirmed song list + first-dance / processional song
- ☐ Attire and number of performers
- ☐ Equipment responsibilities (PA, power, staging)
- ☐ Travel, payment schedule, and cancellation terms

Booked on ARRIVE? Every confirmed booking generates a digital contract automatically, payment is held securely and released to the performer *after* your event, and all coordination stays on-platform — so the most important day is also the most protected booking.

Final Booking Checklist

- ☐ Music planned for every moment of the day
- ☐ Talent vetted: experience, reviews, backup plan confirmed
- ☐ Offers compared on total delivered cost
- ☐ Digital contract in place with all details captured
- ☐ Final timing and song list shared with your musicians

Find vetted wedding talent on ARRIVE.

Browse musicians curated for weddings and compare offers in one place — arrivebooking.com/performers