

## **LET'S MOVE THIS GROOVE AND GET THIS PARTY STARTED!**

*By Winston Hulley – Flash Discos*

**Winston Hulley** has been a DJ since his early teens, but was cautioned against trying to make a career out of music and advised to pursue a 'proper' career path instead. After years of study and subsequently qualifying as a horticulturist, he tried to pursue a 'mature' profession, but the siren song of the music industry refused to fade. He decided to follow his heart and has proven that you can make a career out of doing what you love – so long as the passion never wavers.

Close your eyes and try to imagine a wedding without any music. No wedding march. No hymns. No entrance song or first dance. The clatter of dishes or chirping of crickets - the only sounds to filter through the quiet chatter. Uncle Howard, who considers himself the family's equivalent of Tom Jones, gyrating unenthusiastically to the low hiss of air conditioning. Not much of a celebration, is it?

Music is an integral element of a successful wedding and a professional DJ is invaluable. A DJ is a virtual Pandora's Box of possibilities. He interacts with your guests by assessing their level of enjoyment and can adapt his music choices accordingly. Guests can request favourite songs and he doesn't need to have rehearsed them beforehand in order to put them on the play list. An experienced DJ knows when to rev things up and when to slow them; he reads the dance floor like a book and can get shy or reluctant guests out their seats and into the midst of the party.

It is very important to meet with your DJ a month before your wedding, preferably with your Master of Ceremonies to discuss your expectations with him. There are various important aspects that you need to discuss: if you require music to be set up in the chapel, what your incoming song in the chapel and at the reception will be, selection for first dance, what your guest profile is as well as their taste in music, what music you would prefer for background music while guests are eating, what songs are definite no-no's and what songs are on your top 20 list. Your agreement shouldn't just be verbal; make it contractual with everything agreed to on a function sheet.

Just as people are judged by what comes out of their mouths; DJ's are judged by what comes out of their speakers. Trust your DJ's experience to know when to throw in the golden oldies for the older generation and when to spice things up for the youngsters. The more your DJ knows about you and your expectations, the better he can cater to them and the more of a celebration your wedding will be.

Remember that a solid reputable DJ with the appropriate selection of good music is the essential backbone of a successful, enjoyable and memorable wedding celebration!