



Photo Patrick Furter

- Is the music recorded, live, or both, and are there readings?
- Who will be responsible for the "sound desk"?

Reception:

- Music selections – background music, entrance songs, first dance.
- Number of speeches and will the speakers need a song or music during their speech?
- The timing thereof and integration of music, speeches and other formalities.
- What type of lighting will be used?
- Special effects, such as a smoke machine?

Other important considerations:

There are some questions that you need to raise with your DJ to determine their suitability.

- Who will the DJ be and will you meet him before the function (personality plays a large part and you should feel comfortable with each other).
- How will your DJ be dressed? Is there a dress code?
- Status of the equipment, will cabling be hidden or taped to the floor?
- It is important to give your MC your DJ's number in case contact needs to be made.

One of the biggest downfalls of a wedding is the couple who hands their function over to a DJ without first understanding that a DJ does not merely play a few selected tracks, but is rather intimately involved in the whole function. The DJ should have a vast repertoire of music to help the couple to integrate their preferred music with the tone and style of the function as a whole.



SOUNDWORX

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So You've Booked Your DJ –

Now What?

By Barry De Vaal - Soundworx

After selecting the company that you wish to use, the next step is the pre-function meeting with your DJ, where you will finalise all aspects of your music. I have found that this meeting is best held with the bride and groom only, as it is their wedding and other parties simply cause doubt as to the music that the couple like.

It is always a good idea to do some preparation before your meeting, and be able to convey your ideas and vision to the DJ.

- Do you have a theme? Think about the mood you want to create.
- Consider the cultures, ages and tastes of your guests.

- The procedure, so that the right type of music can be played at the right time.

Couples need to be sure that their chosen DJ will discuss all aspects of the function, including amongst others, the entrance song, leaving song, first dances etc.

The ceremony:

- What is the quality of the music equipment and is there a public address system?
- Will the minister require hand-held or lapel microphones?
- What music will create the atmosphere you want?

Ten years ago, the love of music and entertaining drew Barry de Vaal from a part-time passion to the establishment of Soundworx Entertainment. Soundworx is now a leading entertainment company, and is a member of SADJA and SAMRO.