

FAQ

Do you take requests?

You choose! Normally, I do take requests from your guests, unless you specify otherwise. However, I try to ensure that requests are appropriate for the occasion and that it is something that people will dance to. Metallica and Korn usually don't get heard at too many of my receptions, unless of course you specifically ask for it.

Will you play over the scheduled time if requested?

Yes, overtime can be charged on a 1/2-hour basis. It's 11 o'clock and you're having fun but you're not quite sure whether or not you'll be able to dance 'til midnight, we can always charge it by the 1/2-hour?

How late will you play?

We'll play 'til you tell us to stop. Keep in mind that many reception halls in the area have time limits that they will allow for events. In most cases, if it's going to be past midnight, the bride and groom need to discuss it first with their reception hall. Clearing this up ahead of time will ensure that there are no unexpected surprises or disappointments on the night of the reception. I always try to find out when the party will be ending because I always like to end the evening with a couple of slow songs. It annoys me when a DJ gets the crowd going (knowing he's about to be finished), plays a song like Shout or YMCA and then it's "Thank you, goodnight!" You're guests are then usually standing there saying, "OK, now what?"

What is the minimum amount of time that you'll play?

For most events it's a 4-hour minimum. However there are exceptions to this rule, contact us for your situation.

We want to show a memory video during the reception, can you help?

Yes, I have the equipment (LCD projector, screen, and DVD player) available to rent for the presentation. I'll also bring the necessary cables so that the music from the presentation plays through my sound system.

When does the contracted time start?

The contracted time starts when you want it to start. Whether we do the music for the wedding ceremony, start shortly before dinner (cocktail hour) or decide on the dance only it's up to you.

Can you provide references?

You bet! Just ask and I'm more than happy to provide you with a list of previous clients that have offered to be a reference for a potential client.

Is it customary to tip my DJ?

This is one of those questions that you want to ask, but are afraid to. My response is, "it's up to you." A tip is something that someone gives for good service, whether it is at a restaurant,

barbershop, or wedding reception. A tip should never be asked for. If you feel that good service was given then feel free to tip that person, if you don't feel that good service was given, then don't. I feel that a tip should never be expected. Those that expect a tip are in the wrong profession!

What do you wear?

Your DJ will be dressed in tuxedo attire, minus the jacket. During setup time, we may be dressed a little more casual but yet still professional. This is to make sure that I don't get my tuxedo attire dirty while moving equipment. We try to make sure we're setup and ready to go before your guests arrive, but that mainly depends on what time you've indicated as the start time. Again, we're there approximately 45 minutes to an hour before the scheduled starting time.

What if my mom wants things a little “differently” than I do?

When I book a wedding, I book with either the Bride or the Groom. While in most instances, it's the parents paying for the event, I take my directions from the Bride and Groom. This eliminates any confusion if the situation may arise where “Aunt Mary” comes to me and says that the bride's mom wants to do such and such. If it wasn't something that was planned, I'll discuss it with the Bride and Groom to get their approval. While these types of situations are rare, they can be a Bride & Groom's (not to mention the DJ's) worst nightmare. This is why it's best to communicate with everyone well before the event, so there are no surprises that night. While I do my best to make sure everyone is happy and has a great time, ultimately, it's the Bride & Groom who I'm there to help make it the night you expect.

Why should I hire a DJ when I can just use my iPod and rent a sound system?

An experienced DJ will be able to read your crowd and react to their musical tastes. While you may load an iPod up with a lot of songs you may like, think about your guests. The most talked about receptions are where the guests are having a fun time and the dance floor is busy. You've heard the term “silence is golden”, well not when it comes to DJ'ing. One of my pet peeves is to have silence between songs. You want your music to flow from song to song, not starting and stopping.

My music library spans from the 1940's through the current songs of today. Chances are I've got the music that will cater to most everyone on your guest list. It would take a lot of time and effort to plan out a play list for a reception. Sure it could be done, but it offers no flexibility.

Aside from the music, an iPod can't handle all of the other particulars that take place during a reception, such as introductions, dismissing tables for the buffet line, announcing bouquet/garter toss, interacting with the crowd, etc. While it may be a way to cut costs of the reception, it will have a greater impact on the quality of the night. Your guests will be talking about it for a long time, but unfortunately not in a good way.

How many people does the DJ bring with him?

When you book with me to do a wedding reception, you usually get one person, your DJ. If a company sends two people to DJ your reception or event, I would rethink my confidence in that DJ. I think it is very inconsiderate, not to mention tacky, for a DJ to bring someone along with him. Your reception is a party that was *By Invitation Only*. It is very unprofessional of a DJ, Photographer, Videographer, etc. to bring a guest with them. The only time I would bring someone along to your wedding or event is if I were training another DJ. Even then, I would be sure to get your approval first.

Is there a fee for travel or setup/take-down time?

We do not charge a travel fee unless the reception hall is more than 45 minutes from our address (using Yahoo! Maps). Setup and take-down time are included in our services; you are not charged for this time. I am usually at the reception hall approximately 45 minutes to an hour before the scheduled start time and completely setup approximately 1/2 hour before the scheduled starting time.

When do we meet with you to discuss the event?

I will call you approximately 3-4 weeks before the event. We will schedule a consultation 2-3 weeks before the wedding. This gives me time to get those "hard-to-find" special requests and gives you plenty of time to call me with any "last minute" changes.

Should I reserve a space for the DJ and photographer at a table for dinner?

Another common question. It is not uncommon for the DJ and photographer to be included. This is because most of the time, your photographer and DJ are working at times that are usually dinner hours for most people. Starting at 4:00 (or earlier) in the afternoon and working until midnight is difficult without having a meal in there somewhere. *However, you might want to check with your caterer to see if you have to include them in your meal count, most of the time you won't.* This is especially important if you are having a sit-down dinner in which your guests will be served by the wait staff. Many caterers in the area take into account for these extra people anyway. However, if it's a \$100 per plate dinner and you'd like for the DJ or photographer to make for other arrangements for dinner, don't hesitate to let us know.

When should we pay our DJ?

A deposit is sent in along with one copy of the contract signed by you to lock in your date. This applies to your contracted amount. You are free to decide when you want to pay the remaining balance, either at the end of the reception, or you can send payment in advance. Some people will send in part of the remaining balance a few months before the reception. I guess it's so it doesn't seem like such a large expense that night. Again, it's totally up to you.

Can we pay with a credit card?

Yes, we have the ability to accept credit cards.

Do we get a receipt?

Your copy of the contract acts as your receipt, in addition, if you pay by check, your cancelled check acts as your receipt. If you need a special receipt sent to you, be sure to let me know the night of the reception and I'll send it out within a few days of the event. If it's for a corporate event and you need an invoice submitted ahead of time, let us know and we're happy to do so.

If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to call us!

Event DJ Twin Cities, J.R.'s Entertainment. Shakopee, MN