



Once you've got those things organised, you can deal with everything else and the rest of the party will be a success regardless.

A lot of couples simply play music through an iPod or put together some CDs to play as their reception entertainment. What do you think of this?

A wedding is a big party. It is a celebration, so it should be just as much about the audio as it is about the visual. You play CDs when friends come over, but you don't do that when you're organising the biggest party of your life. It should be a party that people go home from breathless and that they'll remember for a long time.

Make or break

Music can set the mood of your wedding reception, but it can be hard to know how to go about organising it. *Bride* talks to Harris Meitanis from Sydney-based company Apples & Pears Entertainment for advice on how to make sure your wedding is a party to remember.



Harris Meitanis; (top) Delta Goodrem with Apples & Pears musicians at her 21st; (right) Apples & Pears band, The Alexander Project.

What is Apples & Pears Entertainment?

We're a company that represents Australia's best session musicians, who play for people like Delta Goodrem, Kate Ceberano and John Farnham. We have different bands that play different types of music like R&B, disco funk and rock soul, and when the musicians are not touring they play in the bands. We started out about seven years ago by organising gigs at clubs and from there people wanted the bands at their events.

We organised the music for Delta Goodrem's 21st and we've done more than 100 corporate parties, including Virgin Atlantic last year. We love booking tours but in terms of one-off events, by far all of our musos love doing weddings. We'd do a wedding a week on average, at least.

How much does it cost to hire Apples & Pears Entertainment for a wedding?

It's around \$4000. Our packages include a PA system, lights, a band, DJ and a personal event co-ordinator who meets with the couple and is there on the night from the beginning to the end.

What is your advice to couples deciding what type of music to have at their wedding?

I always say this to brides: in five years time, people will only remember three things about your wedding – your gown, where your wedding was held and the music. They'll remember whether or not the music was good, and whether they danced or not. They really won't remember if you had a nice centrepiece or chair covers.

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Couples should check out music at live venues to see what they do and don't like. Brides need to be happy with what they're wearing and the next most important things are the reception venue and the entertainment.

Q. What tips can you offer couples to make the most of hired entertainment?

It's very important to do a run sheet of your day so you know how everything is going to go. For most brides, the reception will be the first time since 6am that they get to exhale and just relax, so take advantage of that and chill out while a DJ plays some entry music and entrees are served. Once you've caught your breath and had a few drinks, do the speeches. People thank me for this advice. It's better to do the speeches while everyone is still fresh, and not intoxicated, so everybody will still be focused. After that, the main course is served and then you have the rest of the night as party time.

In terms of the type of music, you need a range of songs through the ages and it's got to be relevant. After the bridal waltz you go into something to give the oldies a chance to dance, and then slowly build it up from there. ◊

For more about Apples & Pears Entertainment, go to www.applesandpearsent.com

TOP LEFT GUY NIXON-LUKE FOR 2 GUNZ PHOTOGRAPHY; OTHER IMAGES COURTESY APPLES & PEARS ENTERTAINMENT.