

Neon Lighthouse - FAQ's, Tips and Suggestions

We have listed some helpful tips and suggestions on wedding formalities. There are many variations and possibilities. Feel free to talk to us about other ideas. That's what we are here for. We are open to just about anything!

When will the band arrive? The band's sound engineer will be the first to arrive onsite. They will set up the bulk of the equipment (speakers, monitors, microphones, mixing board, drums and various backline). Early set-up times, if possible, must be arranged in advance of the engagement and may include additional costs.

Performance Time: The artist's performance time is the time at which the artist will begin the actual performance. Performance times are consecutive and cannot be used intermittently or "Banked." Any changes in performance, starting, and ending times should be made as soon as possible. Due to possible scheduling conflicts, artists may not be able to alter performance times, set-ups times, and/or overtime.

Bridal Party Introductions: The band generally introduces the wedding party as couples enter the room while playing upbeat energetic music with no lead vocals (so that guests can hear the introductions). Most often parents are included in the bridal party and are introduced first. Grandparents are often acknowledged directly from their seats instead of walking in with the bridal party. We will get everyone in order and "lined" up before the announcements, and go over name pronunciations, leading up to the grand entrance.

First Dance: A great time to do your first dance is immediately after any formal introductions upon entering the main room. After the Bride and Groom have been announced and the applause has died down, the band can go into a first dance song. Options include the band performing your song or us playing the song on MP3 thru the bands sound system. For clients looking to keep it short, the 2-3 minute mark is a good benchmark.

**Pro Tip : Many clients opt to play a pre-recorded version of their first dance song. This part of the night has a lot of focus and can be a great option to ensure the exact version (tempo/form & feel) that you are familiar with. Especially helpful for choreographed dances or more obscure songs and songs with high emotional attachment.*

Toasts: A great time for a welcome toast is after your first dance and prior to dinner service. We recommend that blessings be directly after any welcome toast and that Best Man/Maid Of Honor toasts happen during dinner, between early courses.

Dinner Music: For seated dinner service, we will usually perform non- dance party music until the main course is served. If volume is a major concern, we are able to perform as a smaller version of the band (solo, duo, etc.) or DJ this section.

Volume Concerns: Most volume concerns take place during the dinner portion of the wedding. It's important for the band to play at low volumes during this time and we take this very seriously. If we are asked to turn down repeatedly, we will adjust to a DJ for this portion of the night.

**Pro Tip: When working on your seating chart, avoid seating older guests directly next to the bandstand and or near the band's speakers. They will often be the ones most sensitive to volume.*

First Break: In order to insure maximum dancing and keep band breaks to a minimum, we recommend that meals be immediately available to the band as your guests begin eating the main course. When your guests are finished eating their meals, they will usually want the band to play and get them on the dance floor, this is a bad time for the band to sit down and begin eating a meal . All of this should be arranged with your catering manager prior to the wedding. We will also do our best to convey this to the catering manager.

Cake Cutting: This is normally done after guests have finished eating or near the end of dinner. Most clients like us to announce the cake cutting but not make a huge spectacle out of it.

Parent Dances: Song selections are made by client and can be performed by the band or DJ. These songs may be shortened as well, depending on the recommendations of the bride, groom, and parents.

Dance Party

A great time to start the dance party is right after dinner or at the tail end of the parental dances. Nothing helps fill the dance floor better than the bride and groom being on the dance floor!

**Pro Tip: Dipping the lights down low sends the signal that it's time to party. Ask your onsite manager to dim the house lights after dinner. Our production crew does our best to also notify the venue to do this.*

Can the band play longer than we originally planned? Most often the band is able to perform for additional time and there will be a price on your final version of the contract in regards to overtime. Payment needs to be given directly to the band in the

form of cash/check/venmo/zelle at the wedding or sent in advance of the wedding. Overtime availability of your artist should be determined prior to your event.

**Pro Tip: It is best to let the band know your intentions of overtime as soon as you can. This will help the band pace the evening and not perform a "big finish" too early*

Where can I find the band's song-list? We have a regularly updated "master song list" available to clients upon request. It's a HUGE list of songs and some are performed and rehearsed more regularly than others, so make sure that you highlight ahead of the wedding, what songs you'd like performed.

Will the band learn songs for our wedding ? Of course we will learn and prepare songs for you! We ask that it's no more than 1-3 songs and that it fits stylistically with the band. In order to have all music prepared and rehearsed, we recommend giving us 4 weeks notice of any music that you'd like us to learn.

How do we choose First dance, parental dances? We perform weddings A LOT so feel free to ask for suggestions on first dance and parent dances. We have a list of the most common that we regularly update.

Do we pick all the songs the band plays during the dance party? It is not recommended for clients to go through the song list and try to hand-pick every song for the band to play. Bands are different from a DJ in the way that we prepare our setlists. We are picking our setlists with specific songs in mind that will keep people on the dance floor and that we have arranged to be seamlessly performed together. We are able to add songs or take songs off of that list based on specific clients recommendations but the "flow" will be altered if we move too many songs around. We recommend clients keep a "general approach" to letting us know your likes and dislikes. Any songs that aren't available for the band will be added to the DJ's playlist.

Meals for band: Our bands require a hot meal for each member and one crew member. The group doesn't need anything fancy and it doesn't need to be what your guests are having although that is preferred (some venues will have vendor meals available). We do request one vegetarian meal option if available. Water, coffee and soda should also be made available to the band if at all possible. It is also recommended to have a "break area" or "green room" for performers so we are not sitting with guests.

How many vehicles will you be arriving in? The band members travel separately but are able to travel together if space is limited. On average the band will travel in 6-7 passenger cars and one van (sound engineer/DJ).

What are the band's electrical requirements? We recommend (2) 20 Amp 120 volt dedicated circuits within 25 feet of the band. These should be Independent of catering, lighting or other power needs. For outdoor functions a GFI circuit (ground fault interrupter) is required for the safety of the artists during rain and thunderstorms. When using generators, a 6000-watt generator with (2) 20 amp 120-volt duplex outlets is recommended. Total distance from power source (generator) should not exceed 25'. If you must run extension cords to performance, use heavy cords (12 or 14 gauge). Never plug more than (2) 50' cords together. Total distance from power source to stage should NEVER exceed 100'. (long extension cord runs greatly reduce the power)

**Pro Tip: Lighting, heaters and portable cooking devices take up a lot of "juice". It is imperative that you do not share these types of devices with the power source designated for the band.*

Do we need to provide a stage? No. Most weddings venues do not have stages nor are they required to have one for our band. It's always preferred for photographs and video but it is not necessary. We DO need a flat, level dry performance area to perform on. The recommended performance area for this band is 10-12 deep and about 16 feet wide. If you are providing a stage for the band, we recommend 12 deep and about 16 feet wide.

Does the performance area need to be sheltered for Outdoor Functions? The performance area or stage should be level and should be covered to provide shelter from excessive rain, wind, sun, etc. (if proper shelter is not provided for the band, the band and crew must stop periodically to protect their expensive gear and instruments).