

# 5 Tips To Help You Spot A Quality DJ

There are already so many lists or questions that the wedding magazines and websites tell you that you should ask when you are interviewing potential disc jockeys for your wedding reception. The fact is – asking if they have a wireless microphone or if they belong to a trade association merely suggests that they might have read the same article you did. They are no better or worse than the next disc jockey that you interview. Just because they say that they have been a disc jockey for ten years doesn't make them a great disc jockey.

What should you be asking them? Here are five questions will help you really get to know what type of disc jockey that they are.

- When was the last time you went to a training seminar, workshop or trade show? If they have never been or it's been three or more years since the last time they did any training, then chances are they are not a great entertainer. When it comes to any profession, training and retraining are key factors to keep on top of your industry.
- When you DJ, is your computer playback software working on "AUTOPLAY" or do you mix songs manually? (Autoplay is fine for social hour, but to be a great DJ, you must know when to start/stop a song so it blends smoothly with the next song)
- Can I see a photograph of your setup as guests would see it? (This is where you will find if they are using self-promoting signs, if there are wires showing or if their setup will fit in or stand out with your wedding décor. Large light trussing, beat-up gear or grey carpeted facades are a dead giveaway of them not caring about the look of your wedding reception)
- What do you play during social hour and dinner? If they answer "I usually play..." then chances are they are not going to personalize your wedding to your tastes. They will probably be the kind of DJ that plays the same music at every event – and who wants the exact same wedding music as the last ten weddings you went to that you thought were terrible and cliché? They probably will not honor your NO-PLAY list of music because they think that their prescribed cheesy DJ skits will really make your party pop. After all, who doesn't like getting dressed up in an Indian headgear and doing the YMCA?
- Do you have audio or video clips of a recent wedding that you've done? Listen to see if they refer to the bride and groom as "THE BRIDE AND GROOM" or by their names. If the disc jockey cannot be bothered to remember and use their names, the chances are they will not put much effort into your wedding. After all, exactly how much effort does it take to remember "Lily and Eric"?



Hiring entertainment on price alone will only guarantee that you get the cheapest disc jockey for your wedding. Not all disc jockeys are created alike and not all will work hard to make your wedding a success. If the average price for entertainment is \$900 – \$1200 in this area, then finding someone for \$1000 is only average. Average isn't good enough – you should be looking for extraordinary when it comes to your disc jockey. After all, who wants an average wedding? When it comes to your wedding; you're not getting your hair cut at Supercuts and you're not getting your food from McDonalds. Why get your entertainment from someone who doesn't take the effort to run their business like it's a business?

## My Experience & Experience

Over 25 years experience as a mobile DJ  
Experience in College Radio  
Involvement in local and national DJ organizations  
Active member in the DJ Network  
Background in theater & lighting  
Continuing training through local and national seminars  
DJ'd at thousands of weddings, college & school functions, raves, clubs, & corporate destination events as far away as Mexico



# HOW DO YOU COMPARE ONE DJ COMPANY V. ANOTHER?

## The After Hours Advantage

- Full time disc jockey / office staff – call us anytime. We'll respond to both email and calls in a timely manner
- 30,000+ songs and access to +2 million more on demand
- Elegant yet fun DJ style (you are the center of attention, not us)
- No cheesy DJ antics or self promoting signs
- Personal consultation two months prior
- We will meet you at your venue and do a site walk through with you
- On-line wedding planning tools – listen to song clips, create play lists & forms
- Personalized music selections – you tell us what feel you want for social, dinner and dancing and we'll create the perfect atmosphere
- Free** 50 page wedding planner – filled with informative articles, worksheets
- Free** music selection tools / music suggestions online for your listening pleasure
- Wireless microphone
- Wireless / remote speakers (social hour or multiple room layouts)
- Digital recording of your ceremony or toasts (you get a copy on CD the week after your wedding as a keepsake)
- Custom sound set-up based on room acoustics & number of guests (2 or 4 speakers, subwoofer and wireless speakers)
- Full back-up system on hand (not back at the office)
- Back-up DJs in case of emergency on call for every event
- Back-up music (CD or 2<sup>nd</sup> computer system)
- Back-up power supply in case of loss of electricity (we can play for hours on our battery backup system)
- CD Wedding favors
- Ceremony system with multiple microphones and musician input capabilities
- Full Liability Insurance
- LCD projector & screen rental / Plasma screen rental
- Custom lighting (club, theatrical, name projection)
- Full venue lighting (color wash, LED uplighting)

### What Should You Be Asking Your Disc Jockey?

- Do they regularly attend training seminars both locally and nationally to hone their skills?
- Will they take requests & honor your **"NO-PLAY"** song list?
- Are they dressed like they care about their image, well-spoken & knowledgeable?
- Do they provide you with helpful information for planning your wedding? (both hardcopy and on-line)
- Are they a full-time disc jockey or are they not good enough to make a living out of our profession?
- Do they have a professional looking brochure, literature and website? (**using AOL, Yahoo, Gmail or Hotmail email accounts can be a warning sign**)
- Do they utilize dual MP3 sources or CD backup music formats? Are they completely redundant systems?
- Will they act as your **Wedding Coordinator** and take care of all the behind-the-scenes details?
- Will they provide a typed itinerary for both you and your wedding professionals to work from?
- Do they have a quality sound system? (If they say American DJ, Gemini, MTX, Peavey, AB, B-52, Sound Tech—it's entry level equipment at best.)
- Do they have references?
- Were they Voted **"Best of Weddings"** on the Knot? Are they **Weddingwire.com** rated?
- Can they wirelessly broadcast music to your outdoor or remote cocktail hour if needed?
- Do they have a sound system and lavalier microphones for wedding ceremonies?
- Do they have different styles and sized sound systems to match your banquet facility?
- Do they accept all major credit cards for both retainer and final payments? Paypal?
- Will they customize music for your reception? (i.e. not play the same music at every event)
- Do they wear complete black tuxedos? No flashy colors?
- Will they **NOT** bring cheesy wigs, props and **NOT** embarrass you and your guests?
- Will they **NOT** bring large self-promoting signs?
- Do they return your calls and emails promptly?
- Do they have a music subscription service from **Promo Only** or **Top Hits** so that their music collection is current (and legal)?

With After Hours, the answer to all of these is YES. You will not find another Master of Ceremonies that will work harder to make your reception uniquely yours.



Our online planning services, LED lighting fixtures & emailed PDF materials are all Eco Friendly



Online Wedding Planning Tools



Wedding Questionnaire



Free 50 page Wedding Planner



Backup Power Supply



Wireless Speakers For Social Hour



Digital Recording—toasts, vows



Clean, esthetically pleasing equipment



Full venue lighting—LED Wash lights