

## Things to Consider When Planning for Entertainment:

When planning an **outdoor** function -home/yard, or any non-commercial site where events aren't regularly held, allow room for a van or trailer to get as close as possible to the play site. If your bandstand area is in any way difficult to access with dollies or equipment on rollers, be sure to convey this to the entertainers at first conversation. If your function involves a location other than a first floor load in, make sure the act knows, so set up-times can be arranged accordingly. Some acts charge more for problematic cartage: second floor set-up, steps or difficult load-in places.

When decorating a stage, make sure you leave room for the act to get equipment on, and room to place speakers on each side. The bandstand, or band setup area should be immediately adjacent to the dance floor opposite the head table. Small acts can setup on 6' deep by 8-10' wide areas, where show & dance acts prefer 12' deep by 16-20' wide areas.

Adequate electricity is **critical** for performance. The act cannot even get a sound check, much less play, unless electricity is available and operational. Unless arranged otherwise, it is the buyer's responsibility to have adequate power within 50' of the play area at least 2 hours prior to event start. Minimum requirements: one dedicated 20 amp circuit for small acts, and two for larger ones. Add one more if your event is at night-for lighting. Don't forget that there might be other drains on the power (tent lights, fans, heaters, catering equipment) that need consideration. Talk with your agent or act leader about this. We do not charge for a "walk through" meeting at your site. We want to prevent the act encountering a major problem at setup, and a potential disappointment on your part.

It has always been the standard in the entertainment business that if a function is scheduled for outdoors, and the weather does not cooperate, the act/band is still to be paid, whether it plays or **not**. This is usually spelled out in your contract. It is your responsibility to have an alternate site, where the safety of the musicians and their equipment will not be compromised by the weather. Rain can blow in under the sides of a tent and create an electrical hazard for the entertainers and your guests. It may be prudent to tell the act not to play, rather than take a chance on an injury and/or lawsuit. Sometimes it is just too cold for the entertainers to do a professional job; guitar strings don't stay in tune, keyboardists and drummers fingers can't function as they do in normal weather.

Beachside weddings are becoming more popular, but be realistic about fluctuating waterside conditions. Keep in mind that the picture you saw of idyllic weather and everyone smiling at the perfect event was probably a staged photo shoot on a perfect day and with windscreens. Wind noise will be what you hear most if using microphones. Setting a band next to the Gulf, where the salt air can be disastrous to equipment, and extra time is needed to transport across the sand, requires a lot of cooperation and understanding from all people involved. It takes a lot of work and time to set up a lot of band equipment and then perform. Some acts charge extra if they have to set up more than one time or in two locations. Discuss alternate sites and setups with the leader/manager at first opportunity. If you have a tape or cd to be played, be sure to mention that so the proper equipment will be available for your event.

The more special you can make your act feel, the better they will want to entertain your guests. For example, if you can provide an area for the act to dress, perhaps with snacks and soft drinks, your act will go the extra mile to put on a great show. Always, if you have any questions, just call the manager/bandleader/agent. We all want you to be a satisfied customer.



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