

10 Things to ask your DJ

Sound Swarm Entertainment – 765-532-0067- info@soundswarment.com

1. What kind of DJ are you? Do you only do weddings?

Asking this question gives you an idea of your DJ's abilities to adapt to different settings. You don't want a one trick pony as the master of ceremonies. A professional DJ with the ability to change the environment on a whim should be your main concern. If people aren't dancing, it is the DJ's job to get them on the floor. If it is too serious for your tastes, your DJ needs to lighten the mood.

Your DJ should be able to switch genres of music, should the need arise. Making sure that people enjoy themselves at your wedding is top priority.

2. Do you customize a music experience? How will our day be special, from a musical perspective?

A good wedding DJ should know going into a reception what music he is going to play. Your DJ should arrange a meeting with you to discuss the specifics surrounding music selection with the bride and groom. If your wedding DJ takes your money and you don't see him until the day of the wedding, then something is wrong.

Your DJ should give you the option of adding tracks or simply giving him a list of genres. Since this is his business, he should be able to run with whatever you give him.

3. How do you pump up the crowd?

DJ's often have some tricks up their sleeves when the crowd looks like they are going to start snoozing. This may range from games and line dances, to getting on the mic and telling a funny story. Make sure going in that your DJ isn't going to do something you would rather him not. Again, this is why a meeting before the wedding is so important.

4. How do you handle song requests?

A wedding DJ knows that he will be asked to play specific songs. These are songs that he should have locked and loaded and ready to play on a whim. Your DJ should discuss requests with you prior to the wedding date. Some couples don't want requests, some do. A 'do not play list' is imperative going in. Otherwise, if you book a "jukebox DJ" that doesn't talk with you about this prior to the big day, he may end up playing heavy metal for your cousin Greg.

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5. Do you have a sample mix that I can hear?

Any serious DJ has a mixtape ready to go. This question is important, because if the answer is no, then run. In all reality, a wedding DJ will give you a mixtape that contains Michael Jackson and the Cupid Shuffle. Do you really want to hear his mix tape? Not necessarily, but it is a key question in determining how professional your DJ actually is.

6. What kind of equipment do you use? Do you have back up gear?

A DJ that doesn't bring back up gear is a DJ you don't want. Even the biggest DJ's in the world have issues with equipment failure. [Click here to see what we mean.](#)

Your DJ should have good brand names. These names may include Yamaha, Peavey, Pioneer, Numark, Ableton, JBL, Mackie, Electro-Voice, or QSC just to name a few. If they don't know what their equipment is, or they shoot you a name like Bob's Audio Equipment, this is not the DJ for you.

7. Have you played our chosen venue before? If not, can you visit it prior to the wedding?

Not every DJ has played every venue. If they have been to your venue, great! If they haven't, don't sweat it too much. But, a DJ that doesn't visit your venue before the wedding is a sign of trouble. There is a lot of planning that goes into DJing a wedding, including room acoustic considerations. If he doesn't visit, and shows up to your wedding with 2 speakers to fill a 20,000 square foot room, then he is not effectively doing his job. Don't book that DJ.

8. Is the DJ we meet the DJ that will book our wedding? What happens in case of an emergency?

This is an important question. You want the DJ you meet with to be the DJ that shows up to your wedding. After all, he is the one that knows all about your needs! Of course there are extenuating circumstances. What if the DJ is in a wreck a week before your wedding, God forbid? There has to be a back up plan. If the DJ can't give you an alternative plan for emergencies, then don't book with that service.

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9. Do you only do audio or do you also do lighting and video?

This question is 2-fold. First, the obvious side of this question is that you may also want lighting or video. Secondly, it is telling as to the level of proficiency a DJ is at if he also offers video and lighting. Any serious wedding DJ service will be able to offer you all three services, should you desire them.

10. Why should I choose you as my wedding DJ?

The Holy Grail of all wedding DJ questions... After all, this is a job interview. If a DJ can sell himself to you eloquently, then it is a good sign that the DJ can rock the mic when needed. You want a DJ to be well spoken and to take your special day seriously. If the DJ stumbles on this question, proceed with caution.

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