



The Ultimate Wedding Planning Guide

*Your Step-by-Step Blueprint to
an Unforgettable Celebration*

*Brought to You
by Airwaves Music*

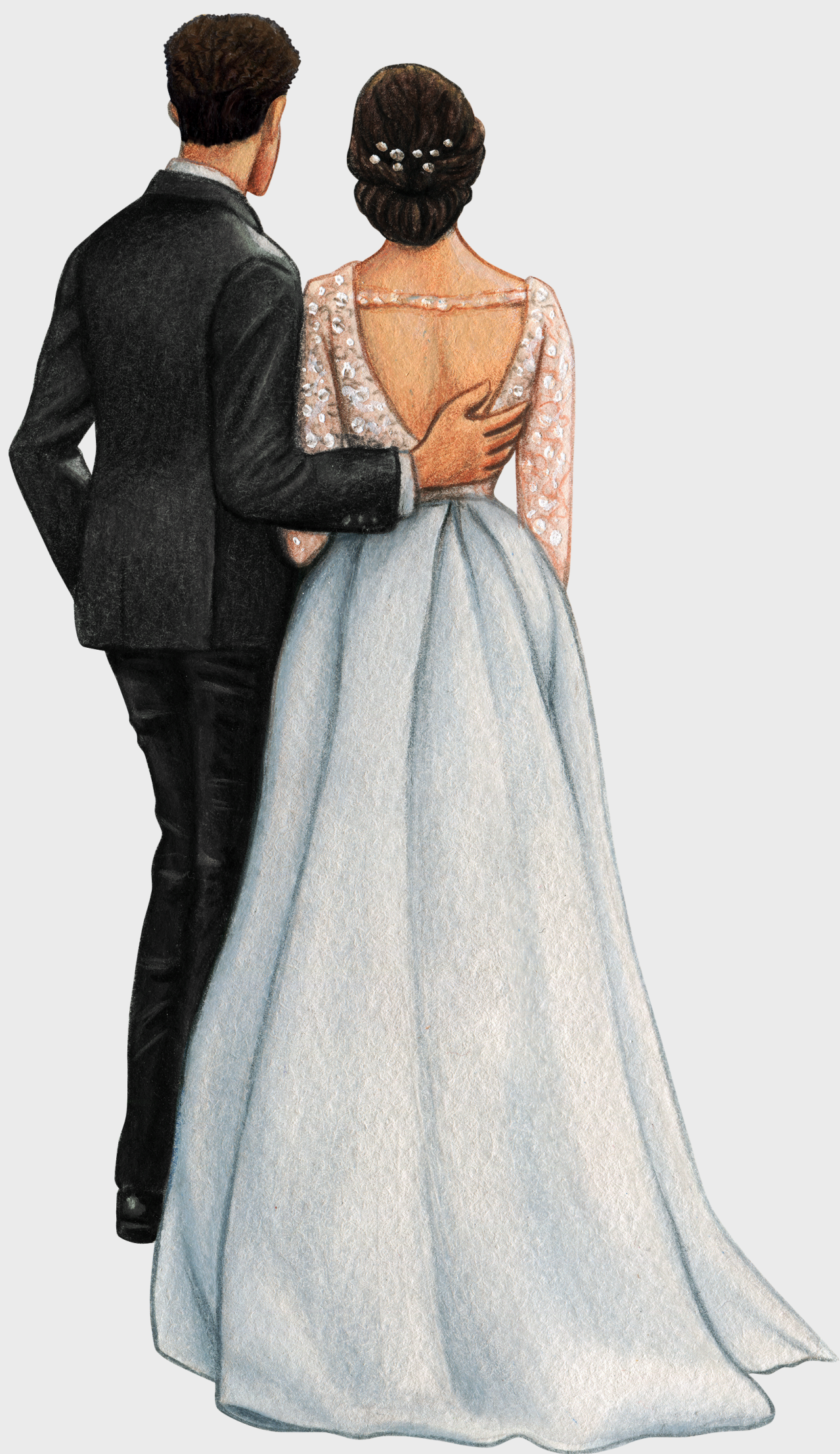
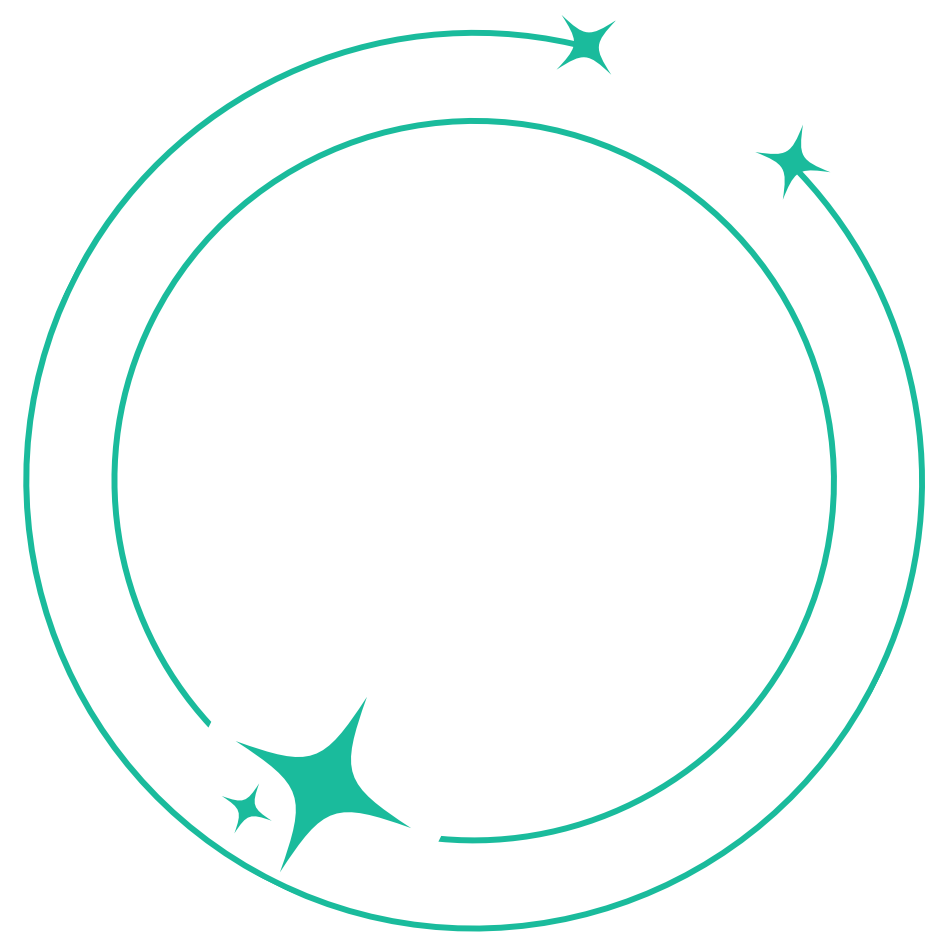
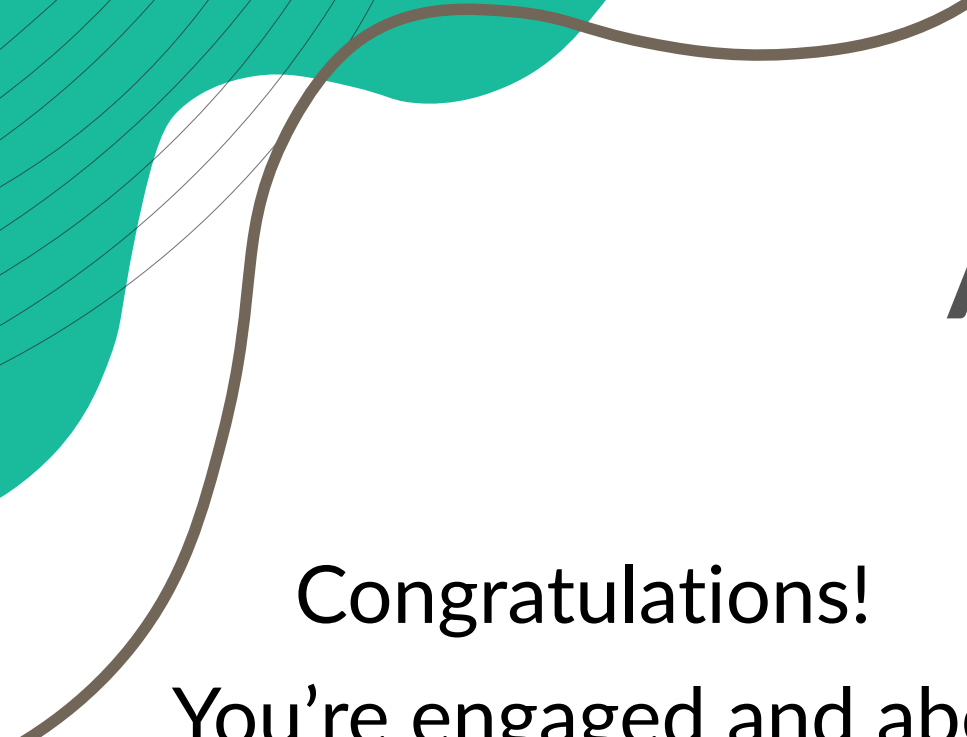


TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. **About Airwaves Music**
2. **Why This Guide Exists**
3. **Laying the Foundation**
 - Announcing Your Engagement
 - Dreaming Up Your Wedding Vision
 - Setting Priorities as a Couple
4. **Budgeting Without Stress**
 - Creating a Realistic Budget
 - Hidden Costs
 - Smart Ways to Save
 - Where to Splurge vs. Cut Costs
5. **Choosing Your Perfect Date & Venue**
 - Factors to Consider (Season, Day of the Week, Guest Availability)
 - Types of Venues (Traditional, Outdoor, Unique, Destination)
 - Venue Logistics (Sound, Lighting, Restrictions)
6. **Crafting the Ideal Guest List & Invitations**
 - Guest List Tips
 - Invitation Etiquette
7. **Building Your Wedding Day Timeline**
 - Creating a Detailed Timeline
 - Sample Wedding Day Schedule with Music Cues
8. **Personalizing Your Ceremony & Reception**
 - Choosing Your Ceremony Format and Officiant
 - Music Selection for Key Ceremony Moments
 - Reception Planning (Entertainment, Live Band vs. DJ)
9. **Mastering Your Wedding Soundtrack**
 - Must-Have Songs
 - Curating a Personalized Playlist
 - The Importance of a Do-Not-Play List
10. **Working Seamlessly With Your DJ**
 - Key Questions for Your DJ
 - Creating a Seamless Music Flow
 - Sound & Lighting Setup Tips
11. **Essential Details: Décor, Attire & Photography**
 - Wedding Décor and Lighting Effects
 - Selecting Your Wedding Attire
 - Capturing Key Photography & Videography Moments
12. **Interactive Checklists & Planning Sheets**
 - Wedding Planning Timelines (12-Month, 6-Month, Last-Minute)
 - Vendor Question Checklists
 - Ultimate Wedding Playlist Ideas





ABOUT AIRWAVES MUSIC

Congratulations!

You're engaged and about to embark on one of the most exciting journeys of your life — planning your wedding. Whether you're dreaming of an intimate gathering or a full-blown party, this guide is here to help you navigate every step of the way.

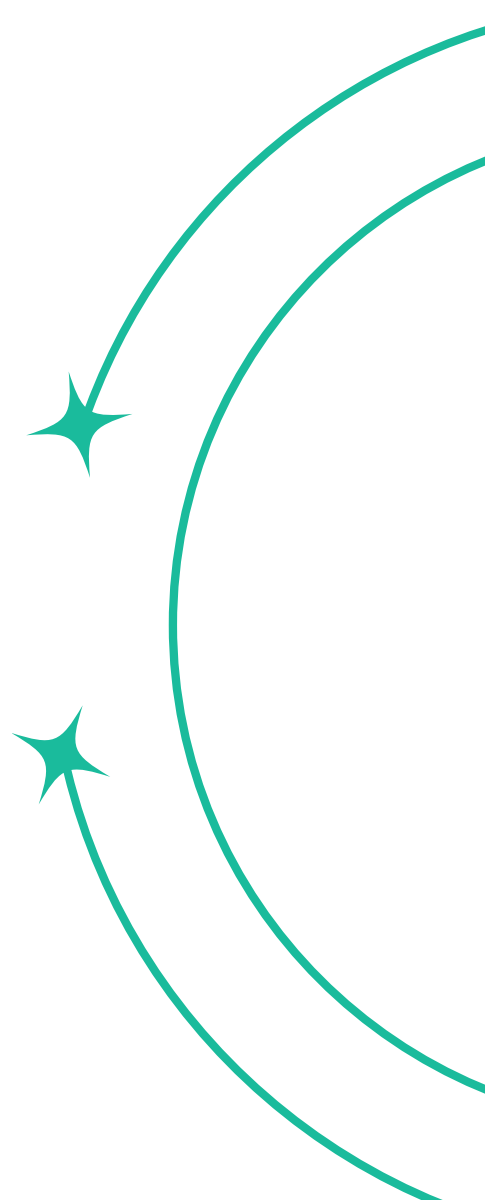
At Airwaves Music, we've had the honor of providing music for over 3,000 weddings, and if there's one thing we've learned, it's that no two weddings are alike. Every couple has a unique vision, style, and vibe—and that's exactly why planning matters.

WHY THIS GUIDE EXISTS

Wedding planning can feel overwhelming. From picking a venue to choosing the perfect first dance song, there are hundreds of details to consider. This guide is designed to make the process simpler, stress-free, and fun.

You'll find expert advice on:

- ▶▶ Setting your budget without the stress
- ▶▶ Creating a timeline that keeps everything running smoothly
- ▶▶ Choosing vendors (including what to look for in a DJ!)
- ▶▶ Building the perfect wedding playlist to keep guests on the dance floor
- ▶▶ Handling logistics—from invitations to lighting and sound



THE AIRWAVES MUSIC DIFFERENCE

While this guide covers every aspect of wedding planning, we specialize in one thing: creating unforgettable wedding experiences through music. With over a decade of experience, we know that music is more than just background noise — it's the heartbeat of your celebration.

That's why we go beyond just playing songs. We:

- ▶▶ Work closely with you to create a personalized playlist
- ▶▶ Provide high-quality sound systems and microphones for crystal-clear speeches
- ▶▶ Set the mood with dance floor lighting that enhances your venue
- ▶▶ Read the crowd and keep the party going all night long

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

We know that every couple is different — some of you love checklists, while others prefer to go with the flow.

That's why this guide is structured so you can:

- Follow step-by-step planning advice from engagement to the big day
- Jump straight to sections that are most important to you
- Use the bonus checklists to stay organized

Let's Plan an Incredible Wedding!

Your wedding should be fun, memorable, and uniquely you.

With the right planning (and the perfect music!), you'll create a day that you and your guests will never forget.

Now, let's dive in and start planning the best party of your life!





FIRST THINGS FIRST

LAYING THE FOUNDATION

Planning your wedding is an exciting, once-in-a-lifetime experience. But before you dive into venues, dresses, and guest lists, let's start with the big picture. This section will help you set a strong foundation by guiding you through the first key decisions — announcing your engagement, envisioning your dream wedding, and aligning your priorities as a couple.

Announcing Your Engagement (and Social Media Etiquette)

The moment has arrived—you're engaged! Whether it was an intimate proposal or a grand surprise, this is a milestone worth celebrating. But before you rush to post that ring selfie, take a moment to share the news thoughtfully.

Who to Tell First?

- ▶ **Family First:** Parents, siblings, and close relatives should hear the news directly from you. A phone call or in-person visit makes the moment extra special.
- ▶ **Best Friends & Inner Circle:** Your closest friends (and maybe your future wedding party!) deserve to hear it before the world does.
- ▶ **Then, Social Media:** Once your loved ones know, go ahead and share that stunning engagement announcement!

Social Media Do's & Don'ts



Take a moment to enjoy the engagement privately before announcing it. Keep it positive and personal—a heartfelt caption goes a long way. Be mindful of friends going through breakups or fertility struggles.



Announce before telling immediate family. Share details about the ring cost—it's about love, not price tags! Feel pressured to share every single wedding update online.



Pro Tip: If you're planning a surprise engagement party, wait to post until after the event so guests don't accidentally spoil the surprise!

Dreaming Up Your Perfect Wedding Vision

Now that the excitement has settled, it's time to dream big! Forget about budgets and guest lists for a moment—imagine your perfect wedding with no limitations.

Close Your Eyes & Imagine:

- Where are you? A beach, vineyard, luxury ballroom, or backyard?
- What's the vibe? Romantic and intimate, or bold and extravagant?
- How do you want guests to feel? Relaxed, excited, emotional, energetic?
- What kind of music is playing? A live string quartet, a DJ dropping beats, or a jazz band?
- What are you eating and drinking? A plated dinner, food trucks, or a casual buffet?
- What's the one thing that will make your wedding unforgettable?

Write down your thoughts, or create a vision board (Pinterest is great for this!). This exercise will help guide your decisions in the next steps.



Pro Tip: Music plays a huge role in setting the tone of your wedding. Start thinking about what kind of energy you want — from the ceremony to the last dance!

Setting Priorities as a Couple

Before you get into the nitty-gritty of planning, have an honest conversation with your fiancé(e) about what truly matters to both of you.

Make a “Top 3 Priorities” List: Each of you should write down the three most important aspects of the wedding. Compare lists and discuss!

🎵 Amazing music & packed dance floor

📷 Hiring a top-tier photographer

🍴 A delicious, high-end dinner

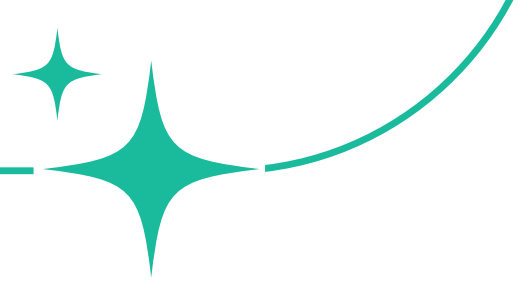
🌿 A breathtaking outdoor setting

💍 A meaningful and personal ceremony

Compromise is key! If one of you dreams of a live band, but the other prefers a DJ, consider having both—a string quartet for the ceremony and a DJ for the dance party.

Final Thoughts: A Strong Start to Planning

By announcing your engagement thoughtfully, visualizing your dream wedding, and setting clear priorities as a couple, you're laying the foundation for a stress-free and joyful planning experience.



BUDGETING WITHOUT STRESS

Let's be real—talking about money isn't always fun, but setting a realistic wedding budget is one of the most important steps in the planning process. The good news? A beautiful, unforgettable wedding doesn't have to break the bank.

This section will help you take control of your wedding finances by breaking down:

- How to set a realistic budget
- Hidden costs couples often forget
- Smart ways to save without sacrificing style
- Where to splurge vs. where to cut costs

Creating a Realistic Wedding Budget

Your budget sets the foundation for everything — from your venue and guest count to your music and décor. Here's how to break it down step by step.

Step 1: Determine Your Total Budget

Start by adding up:

- Personal savings: How much are you comfortable spending?
- Family contributions: Are parents or relatives helping?
- Monthly savings: Can you set aside money leading up to the wedding?



Pro Tip: Set aside 10% of your budget as a cushion for unexpected costs!

Step 2: Allocate Your Budget Wisely

Here's a general guideline for wedding budget allocation:

- Venue & Catering: 40-50%
- Photography & Videography: 10-15%
- Music & Entertainment: 10-15% 🎵 (Hint: The right DJ makes all the difference!)
- Flowers & Décor: 10%
- Attire (Dress, Suit, Accessories): 5-10%
- Stationery & Invitations: 3-5%
- Transportation: 2-3%
- Miscellaneous (Favors, Marriage License, etc.): 2-3%



Pro Tip: A great DJ or band makes or breaks the party — invest in entertainment that keeps your guests dancing all night!



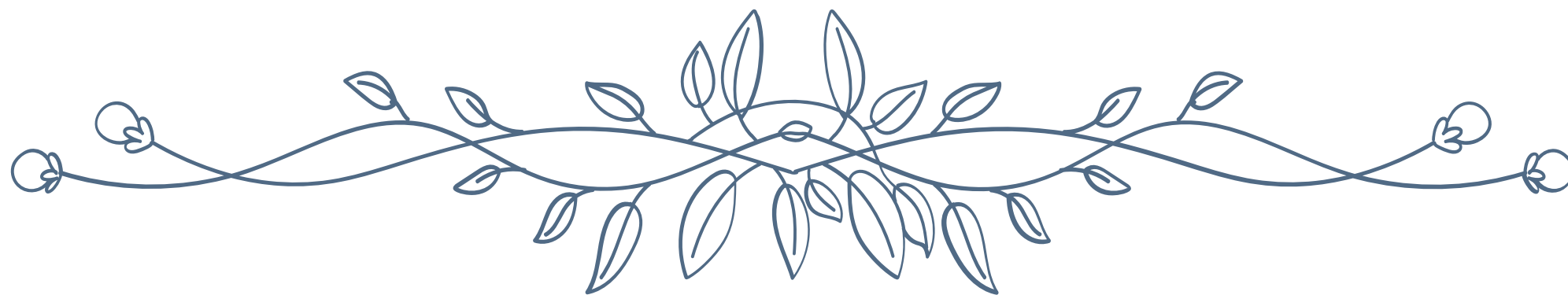
Hidden Costs Couples Forget

It's easy to focus on the big-ticket items, but many couples forget these sneaky expenses:

- Taxes & Gratuities – Catering, venue, and other services often add 10-25% in service fees.
- Extra Venue Fees – Some venues charge for setup, breakdown, or overtime.
- Sound & Lighting – If your venue doesn't provide speakers or mics, you'll need to rent them. (At Airwaves, sound is always included!)
- Marriage License & Officiant Fees – Budget around \$100-\$500.
- Vendor Meals – Your DJ, photographer, and planner need to eat, too!
- Dress Alterations & Accessories – That dream dress may need extra tailoring.
- Transportation & Parking – Especially if you have multiple locations.
- Post-Wedding Costs – Thank-you notes, dress preservation, and album printing add up.



Pro Tip: Create a buffer fund for surprise costs—aim for \$1,000+ to stay safe!



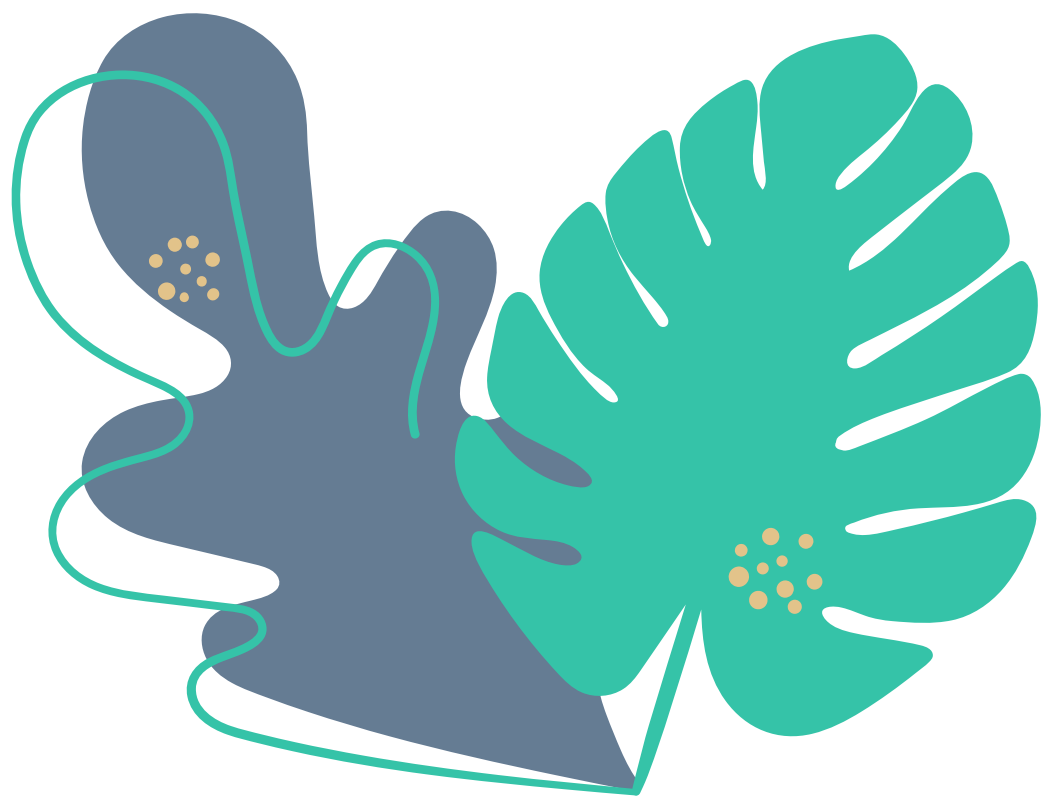
How to Save Money Without Sacrificing Style

You don't need to spend a fortune to have a gorgeous wedding! Here are smart ways to cut costs while keeping things stylish:

- Go Digital with Invitations – Save money (and the planet) with e-vites or a wedding website.
- Choose an Off-Peak Wedding Date – Venues and vendors offer discounts for Fridays, Sundays, or winter weddings.
- DIY Some Decor – Handmade centerpieces or signage can add a personal touch.
- Limit the Guest List – Fewer guests = lower costs on food, seating, and favors.
- Rent Instead of Buy – Consider renting decor, attire, or tableware instead of purchasing.
- Bundle Your Services – Some vendors offer discounts when you book multiple services (like DJ + lighting with Airwaves Music!).



Pro Tip: If you want both a band & DJ, consider a live musician for the ceremony & a DJ for the reception to save costs!



Where to Splurge vs. Where to Cut Costs

Deciding where to invest vs. save is key to a balanced budget

WHERE TO SPLURGE

Entertainment & Music – Your guests will remember the fun, not the napkins!
A professional DJ ensures a seamless, high-energy experience.

Photography & Videography – You'll treasure these memories for decades.

Food & Drinks – A well-fed guest is a happy guest.

Wedding Planner/Coordinator – If budget allows, a planner can save time, stress, and even money with vendor negotiations.

WHERE TO SAVE

Wedding Favors – Many guests forget or leave them behind.

Expensive Invitations – A simple, elegant invite does the trick!

Over-the-Top Florals – Seasonal flowers or minimalist designs save big.

Designer Shoes – No one sees them under your dress!



Final Thoughts: Budget with Confidence!

Budgeting doesn't have to be stressful. By setting priorities, planning for hidden costs, and making smart spending choices, you can create an unforgettable wedding without financial regret.



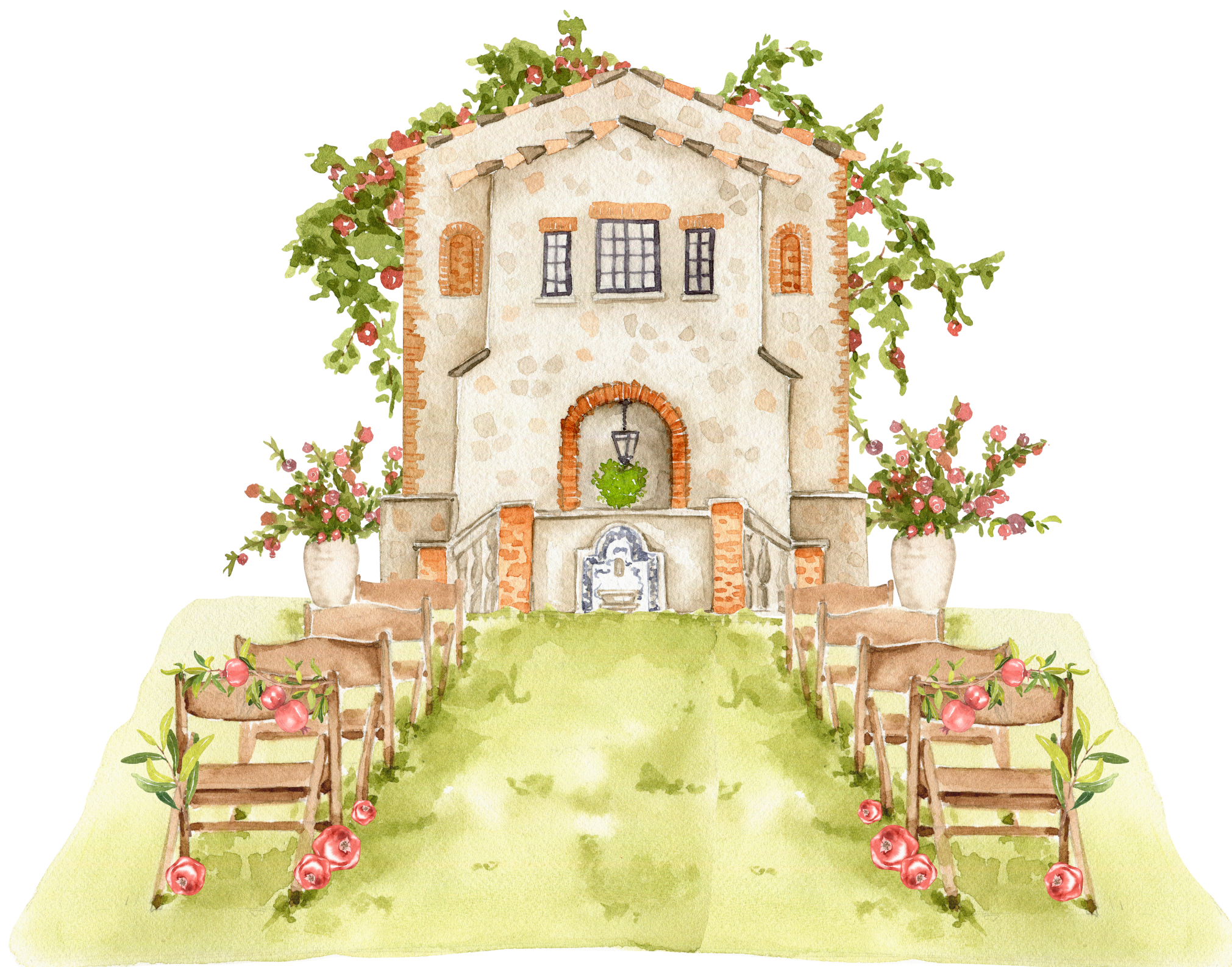


CHOOSING THE PERFECT DATE & VENUE

Once you've set your budget, the next big step is choosing your wedding date and venue. These two decisions go hand in hand and will shape the rest of your wedding planning journey. The right venue creates the perfect atmosphere, while the date determines everything from guest availability to vendor pricing.

In this section, we'll cover:

- Factors to consider when selecting your wedding date
- Different types of wedding venues
- Key venue logistics — especially for sound, lighting, and entertainment



Factors to Consider When Selecting Your Wedding Date

Your wedding date will affect everything—venue availability, vendor costs, weather conditions, and even your guests' ability to attend.

1. The Season & Weather

- Spring/Summer (Peak Season, May–September): Beautiful weather, outdoor weddings, and long evenings—but also higher costs and busier venues.
- Fall (September–November): Stunning foliage, milder temperatures, and slightly lower venue pricing than peak summer months.
- Winter (December–March): Cozy, romantic, and more budget-friendly—but be mindful of weather risks and travel delays.



Pro Tip: If you're dreaming of an outdoor wedding, make sure your date avoids extreme heat, cold, or unpredictable weather. Always have a backup plan (like a tent or indoor option)!

2. Day of the Week & Time of Day

- Saturday Evening: The most popular (and expensive) choice.
- Friday or Sunday: A great way to save money while keeping the weekend vibe.
- Weekdays (Monday–Thursday): The most budget-friendly option, but may limit guest availability.



Pro Tip: If your venue or vendors are out of budget on a Saturday, ask about Friday or Sunday discounts!

3. Guest Considerations

- Are your VIP guests (parents, close family, bridal party) available on your chosen date?
- Will many guests be traveling from out of town? If so, avoid holiday weekends when flights and hotels are expensive.
- If you have a lot of teachers or students, avoid busy school months.



Pro Tip: If your wedding requires travel, send "Save the Dates" early (6-12 months in advance) to give guests time to plan.

Venue Options (Traditional, Outdoor, Destination, etc.)

Your venue is more than just a space — it sets the tone, atmosphere, and overall experience of your wedding.

1. Traditional Venues

➤ Ballrooms & Banquet Halls: Elegant, classic, and perfect for large guest lists.

Bonus: They often include catering, rentals, and staff.

➤ Hotels & Resorts: Great for destination weddings or convenience, since guests can stay on-site.



Pro Tip: Many hotels and ballrooms have built-in sound systems, but they're not always the best quality. Check with your DJ to see if additional sound equipment is needed.

2. Outdoor Venues

➤ Gardens & Vineyards: Dreamy settings with natural beauty — but watch out for unpredictable weather!

➤ Beaches & Parks: Stunning scenery but require extra planning for permits, noise restrictions, and sound setup.



Pro Tip: Outdoor weddings need strong sound systems. Wind, waves, and open spaces can affect how music carries — make sure your DJ brings high-quality speakers and microphones!

3. Unique & Alternative Venues

➤ Private Estates & Airbnb Rentals: Intimate, personal, and fully customizable.

➤ Museums, Theaters, or Art Galleries: Perfect for couples looking for a creative, modern space.

➤ Lofts & Warehouses: Industrial-chic with a blank canvas for décor.



Pro Tip: Some non-traditional venues may not have proper acoustics for speeches and music. Always ask if they allow DJs and amplified sound!

4. Destination Weddings

➤ Dreaming of getting married in Mexico, Italy, or the Caribbean?

Pros: Breathtaking scenery, all-inclusive options, and a built-in honeymoon!

Cons: Smaller guest count, travel logistics, and weather considerations.



Pro Tip: If your wedding is international, make sure your DJ can travel or consider hiring a local DJ with experience in destination weddings.



Venue Logistics: Sound, Lighting & Entertainment Considerations

Many couples choose a venue based on looks, but don't forget about the logistics —especially for music and entertainment!

1. Sound System & Music Setup

- ▶ *Ceremony Sound:* If your ceremony is outdoors or in a large space, you'll need a high-quality microphone and speakers so guests can hear your vows.
- ▶ *Reception Setup:* Make sure your venue has enough power outlets and space for a DJ or band setup.

WHAT TO ASK YOUR VENUE:

- ? Does the venue have a built-in sound system, or will the DJ need to bring their own?
- ? Are there noise restrictions or curfews? (Some outdoor venues require music to stop early)
- ? Where will the DJ or band be positioned? Is there enough space for speakers, lights, and dance floor setup?

HOW AIRWAVES MUSIC HELPS:

We bring our own professional sound system, ensuring crystal-clear music and speeches — no matter the venue!

2. Dance Floor & Lighting

A great wedding needs a dance floor! Some venues include one, while others require a rental.

Lighting is key for setting the mood! Ask your venue about options for:

- Romantic ceremony lighting (candles, fairy lights)
- Soft dinner lighting (chandeliers, warm tones)
- High-energy dance floor lighting (LEDs, strobes, color effects)

HOW AIRWAVES MUSIC HELPS:

We bring our own professional sound system, ensuring crystal-clear music and speeches — no matter the venue!

3. Venue Rules & Restrictions

Before you book, confirm:

Noise curfews: Some venues require music to end early (10 PM or 11 PM).

Power access: DJs and bands need proper electrical outlets—especially outdoors.

Vendor policies: Some venues require you to choose from an approved DJ list.



Pro Tip: If your venue has a strict noise policy, work with your DJ to adjust the playlist for maximum energy before the cutoff time!

Final Thoughts: The Perfect Fit

Your venue should match your style, guest count, and budget, but also work logistically for your entertainment, lighting, and overall experience.

Next Steps:

Tour at least 3 venues before making a decision.

Ask about music, sound, and lighting requirements upfront.

Lock in your date ASAP — venues book up fast!



GUEST LIST & INVITATIONS

Your guest list affects everything — from your venue choice to your budget.
But let's be honest, deciding who makes the cut can be tricky.
Let's break it down.

How to Craft the Perfect Guest List

Step 1: Start with a Master List

Begin with everyone you'd love to invite, then group them into priority levels:

- Essential (Must-Have Guests): Immediate family, best friends, wedding party.
- Important (Would Love to Have): Extended family, close friends.
- Nice-to-Have (If Budget Allows): Co-workers, acquaintances, distant relatives.



Pro Tip: If you wouldn't grab coffee with them one-on-one, reconsider adding them to the list.

Step 2: Consider the Budget & Venue Capacity

- Each guest increases costs for catering, seating, invitations, and favors.
- If your dream venue only holds 100 guests, but your list is at 150, time to trim!

Step 3: Set Rules for Plus-Ones & Kids

- Plus-Ones: A general rule is to invite plus-ones for married, engaged, or long-term couples.
- Kids or No Kids? Some couples opt for an adults-only wedding, while others provide childcare or a kid-friendly area.

How to Politely Say No Kids:

"While we love your little ones, we have chosen to keep our wedding an adults-only celebration. We appreciate your understanding!"



Invitation Etiquette (Traditional & Digital Options)

Traditional Paper Invitations

Best for: Classic, formal, and black-tie weddings.

What to Include:

Couple's names
Date, time, & location
RSVP instructions
Dress code (if applicable)
Wedding website (for additional details)

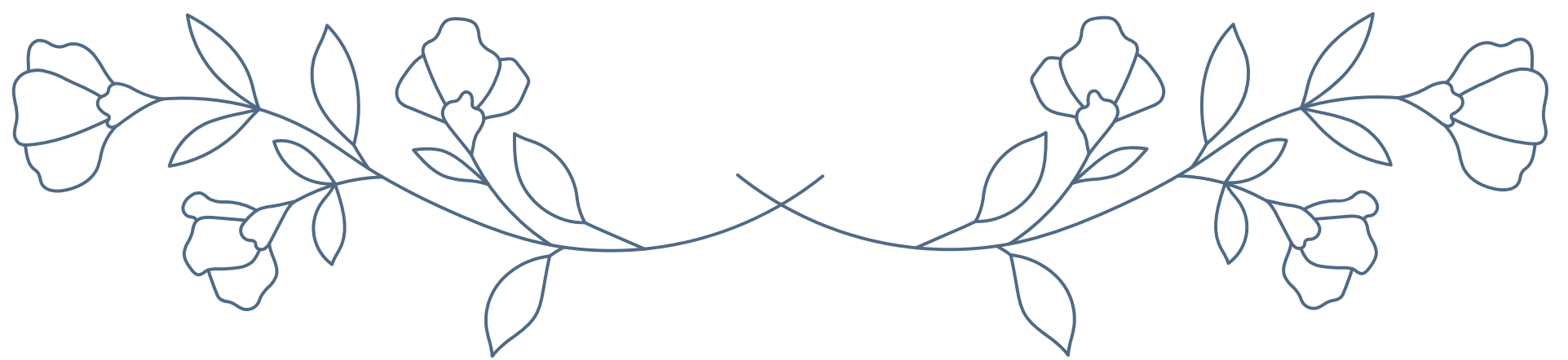
Digital Invitations & Wedding Websites

Best for: Casual, eco-friendly, or modern weddings.

Top digital platforms: Minted, Paperless Post, Evite, and Zola.



Pro Tip: Even if you send digital invites, a wedding website is a great way to share venue directions, hotel blocks, and RSVP options.



Managing RSVPs

RSVP tracking can be a nightmare if you don't stay organized.

- Set a Deadline: Ask for RSVPs at least 4-6 weeks before the wedding.
- Use an Online Tracker: Google Sheets, Zola, or The Knot keep RSVPs in one place.
- Follow Up Politely: If guests don't respond by the deadline, send a friendly reminder via text or email.



Pro Tips: Expect 10-20% of guests to decline, so send extra invites if needed! Including a Song that can get them on the Dance floor as part of the RSVP can help you maintain a good "Vibe" and gives your DJ an idea of what the guests are expecting.

TIMELINE & WEDDING DAY SCHEDULE

A well-planned wedding timeline = less stress, fewer surprises, and a smoother flow of events. Let's create a schedule that keeps everything on track!

How to Create a Stress-Free Wedding Timeline

Step 1: Consider These Factors

- Sunset Timing (for outdoor weddings/photos)
- Travel Time Between Venues
- Cultural Traditions or Religious Ceremonies
- Vendor Setup & Breakdown

Step 2: Start Backward from Your Ceremony Time

For example, if your ceremony is at 4:00 PM, work backward:

- Hair & Makeup: Start by 9:00 AM
- Getting Dressed & Photos: 1:30 PM
- Guests Start Arriving: 3:30 PM
- Ceremony Begins: 4:00 PM



Pro Tip: Pad extra time for unexpected delays (traffic, late guests, outfit fixes)



SAMPLE WEDDING DAY SCHEDULES (WITH ENTERTAINMENT CUES!)

Music plays a huge role in keeping the flow of events smooth — here’s a sample timeline with DJ cues included

Example: Traditional Afternoon Wedding (4 PM Ceremony)

9:00 AM	Hair & Makeup Begins	Soft background music
1:30 PM	Couple Gets Dressed & First Look	Romantic acoustic playlist
3:30 PM	Guests Arrive	Light classical/jazz set
4:00 PM	Ceremony Begins	Processional song
4:30 PM	Cocktail Hour	Upbeat but relaxed playlist
6:00 PM	Dinner Starts	Background music (customized)
7:30 PM	First Dance	Couple’s chosen song
8:00 PM	Dance Floor Opens	DJ kicks off party set
10:00 PM	Late Night Snacks & Slow Dance	Chill, romantic songs
12:00 AM	Last Dance & Send-Off	High-energy closing song



Pro Tip: We help couples time their music perfectly—from walking down the aisle to the last dance. A good DJ keeps the energy going without awkward pauses or dead air!

How to Ensure Everything Runs Smoothly

- **Delegate Key Tasks:** Assign a trusted friend, planner, or venue coordinator to handle small hiccups.
- **Create a Contact List:** Share vendor phone numbers with your wedding party for quick communication.
- **Have a DJ-Approved Playlist:** Work with your DJ to curate a playlist that matches each moment.
- **Expect the Unexpected:** Things won't always go 100% as planned — and that's okay!



Pro Tip: Have an emergency kit with essentials (safety pins, stain remover, mints, Advil) just in case.



THE CEREMONY & RECEPTION

(The Heart of the Celebration)

Your wedding ceremony is the emotional core of your day, and your reception is the ultimate celebration of your love.

This section will guide you through crafting a meaningful ceremony and throwing a reception that keeps guests entertained all night long!

The Ceremony: Personalizing Your “I Dos”

Your ceremony should reflect your love story, values, and personalities. Whether you envision a traditional religious ceremony or a free-spirited beachside vow exchange, this is your moment to say “I do” in a way that feels right for you.

Ceremony Formats (Religious, Civil, Symbolic)

Before diving into the details, decide what type of ceremony suits you best.

1. Religious Ceremony

Best for: Couples who want a faith-based service.

Consider: Specific traditions, readings, and venue requirements (church, temple, mosque).

Music Tip: Many religious venues have rules on music, so check if you can bring in a DJ or live musicians.

2. Civil Ceremony

Best for: Couples who want a legally binding but non-religious ceremony.

Consider: City hall, courthouse, or an officiant-led ceremony at any location.

Music Tip: Soft instrumentals or acoustic covers add elegance to a simple ceremony.

3. Symbolic Ceremony

Best for: Destination weddings or couples who legally marry beforehand but want a meaningful ritual.

Consider: Handfasting, sand ceremonies, or writing personal vows.

Music Tip: Pick a song that feels deeply personal to your love story.

Choosing an Officiant

Your officiant sets the tone for your ceremony, so choose wisely!

Options:

- Religious Leader – Perfect for faith-based weddings.
- Professional Officiant – Brings experience and custom scripting.
- Friend or Family Member – Adds a personal, heartfelt touch (but check legal requirements in your area).



Pro Tip: Meet with your officiant beforehand to discuss the script, readings, and tone.



Music Selection for Key Ceremony Moments

Music transforms the ceremony atmosphere – it builds emotion, creates beautiful transitions, and enhances the experience.

Prelude (Guest Arrival)

Soft instrumental, classical, acoustic love songs

Processional (Walking Down the Aisle)

Romantic ballad or instrumental version of a favorite song

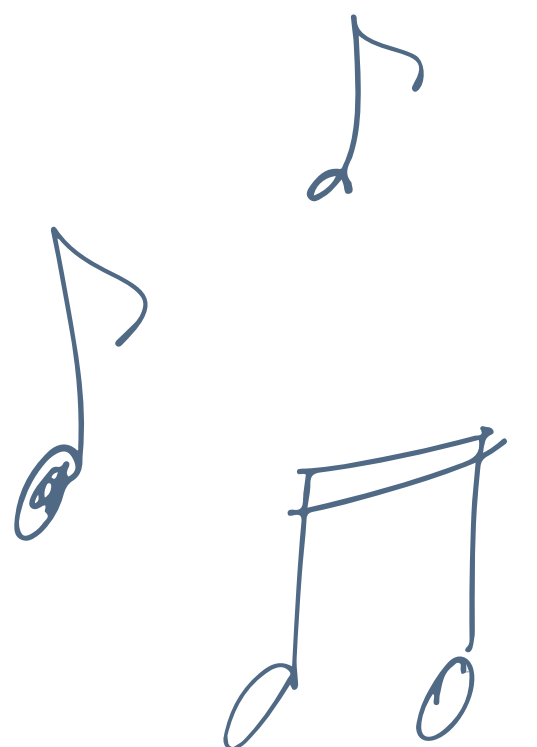
Vow Exchange

Soft background instrumental (optional)



Recessional (Exit as Newlyweds!)

Upbeat, joyful song to celebrate the moment!



Pro Tip: Live musicians are great for an intimate feel, while a DJ ensures smooth transitions between songs.

The Reception: Creating the Ultimate Party

Your reception is where the celebration kicks into high gear!
It's time to eat, toast, dance, and party with your loved ones.
Here's how to create a reception timeline that keeps guests engaged from start to finish.

Planning a Fun & Engaging Reception Timeline

A well-paced reception keeps guests entertained without long lulls or rushed moments.
Here's a sample reception timeline with entertainment cues!

6:00 PM	Cocktail Hour	Light jazz, acoustic, or lounge music
7:00 PM	Grand Entrance	High-energy song for the couple's entrance
7:15 PM	Dinner Begins	Background music—chill, romantic vibes
7:45 PM	Toasts & Speeches	Soft instrumental music for transitions
8:15 PM	First Dance	Couple's special song
8:30 PM	Parent Dances	Emotional, classic tunes
9:00 PM	Dance Floor Opens	DJ kicks off the party with upbeat hits
10:30 PM	Cake Cutting	Fun, lighthearted song
11:00 PM	Late Night Dancing	High-energy hits & throwbacks
12:00 AM	Last Dance	Slow, romantic song to close the night



Pro Tip: A good DJ or band keeps the night flowing seamlessly – no awkward silences!



Music & Entertainment: Live Band vs. DJ

Both live bands and DJs bring unique vibes to a wedding — here's how to decide what works best for you.

LIVE BAND

DJ



Energy & Atmosphere

Creates an authentic, concert-like experience



Reads the crowd & keeps the dance floor packed

Music Variety

Limited to the band's repertoire

Unlimited song selection across all genres

Customization

Live renditions of songs

Perfect song transitions & seamless mixing

Space Requirements

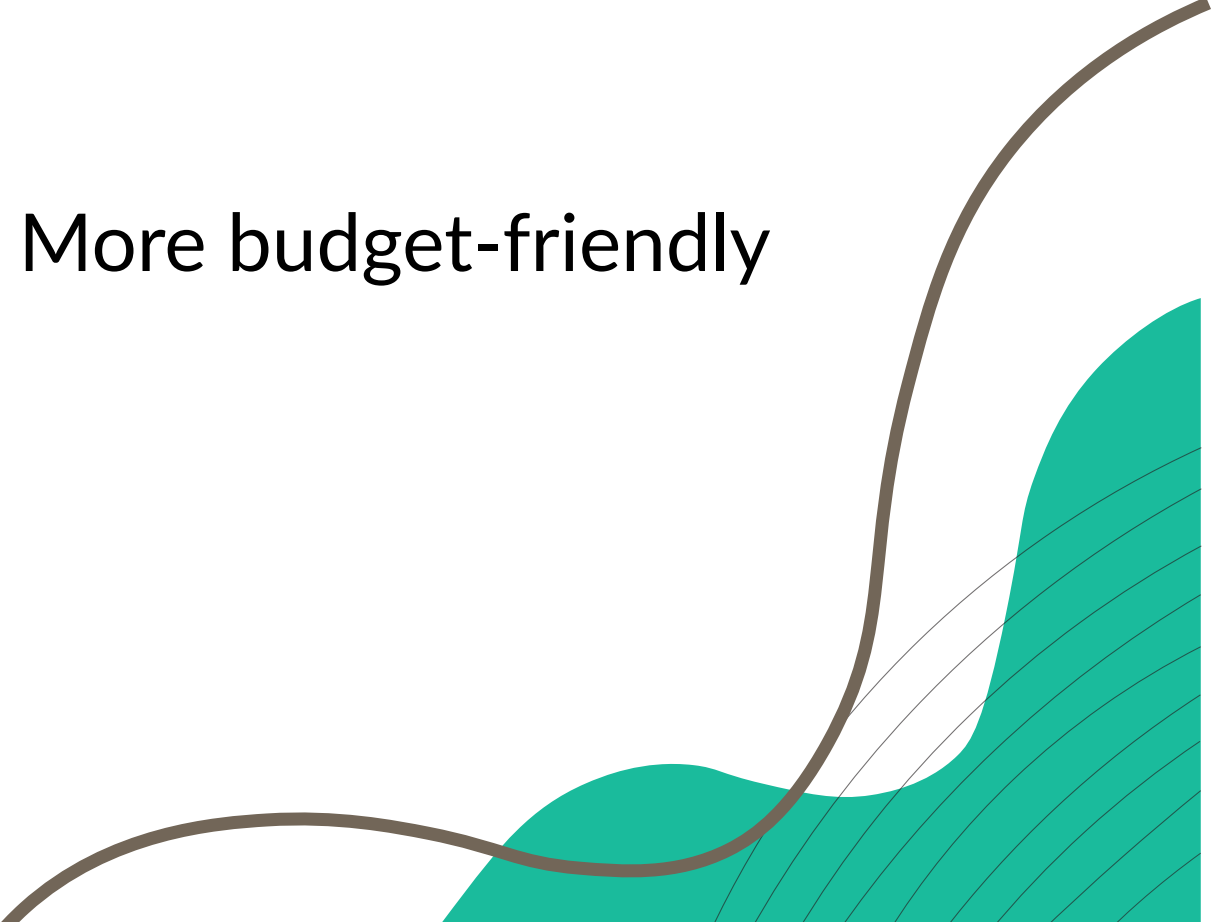
Needs stage & sound setup

Compact, adaptable for any venue

Cost

Generally more expensive

More budget-friendly



Interactive Entertainment Ideas

(Beyond Just Dancing!)

Want to spice up your reception? Here are fun ways to engage guests beyond the dance floor:



Karaoke Corner

Let guests take the mic for an unforgettable sing-along!



Photo Booth

Fun props, instant prints, and digital sharing.



Lawn Games (for Outdoor Weddings)

Cornhole, giant Jenga, or bocce ball.



Silent Disco

Guests wear wireless headphones for a unique dance experience!



Live Requests with the DJ

Let guests send their song requests digitally for a personalized dance playlist.



Pro Tip: Mix up high-energy moments with chill breaks — for example, a slow dance or acoustic set between party anthems.



Final Thoughts: The Perfect Party

Your ceremony and reception should feel authentic, fun, and memorable — whether that means heartfelt vows, a packed dance floor, or unique entertainment.

THE WEDDING SOUNDTRACK (YOUR EXPERTISE SHINES HERE!)

Music is the heartbeat of your wedding, setting the tone for every moment — from your walk down the aisle to the final dance of the night. A well-curated soundtrack creates emotions, keeps guests engaged, and ensures a seamless flow throughout the day.

How to Choose the Perfect Wedding Music

The right playlist makes your wedding feel authentic and unforgettable. Let's break down the must-have songs, how to curate a playlist that reflects your personality, and why a "Do-Not-Play" list is just as important as your must-plays.

Your wedding music should feel authentic to you as a couple. Here's how to craft a playlist that feels personal and unique:

- *Think About Your Relationship:* What songs define your journey together?
- *Consider Your Guests:* Mix classic hits with personal favorites for all generations to enjoy.
- *Set the Mood:* Match the energy of each part of the wedding (romantic, celebratory, party vibes).
- *Trust Your DJ:* Give them room to read the crowd and adjust the energy when needed.

The Do-Not-Play List (And Why It's Important!)

There are always a few songs you just don't want to hear on your wedding day. Whether it's overplayed, reminds you of an ex, or just doesn't match your vibe, here's why a Do-Not-Play list matters:

- Prevents awkward moments
- Ensures the music aligns with your taste
- Gives your DJ clear guidelines



Pro Tip: Create a "must-play" list (songs you love) and a "do-not-play" list (songs to avoid). If a guest requests a song on your "Do-Not-Play" list, our DJs will politely decline and keep the vibe right!

Must-Have Songs for Each Part of the Wedding Day

Music plays a crucial role at each stage of your wedding.
Here's a breakdown of key moments and song recommendations:

Wedding Moment	Music Vibe	Examples
Pre-Ceremony (Guest Arrival)	Light, romantic background	Can't Help Falling in Love – Elvis Presley, Marry Me – Train
Processional (Walking Down the Aisle)	Emotional, elegant	A Thousand Years – Christina Perri, Canon in D – Pachelbel
Recessional (Exit as Newlyweds!)	Upbeat, celebratory	Signed, Sealed, Delivered – Stevie Wonder, This Will Be – Natalie Cole
Cocktail Hour	Chill, feel-good tunes	Acoustic covers, jazz, or instrumental pop
Grand Entrance (Reception)	High-energy, fun	Crazy in Love – Beyoncé, We Will Rock You – Queen
First Dance	Romantic & personal	Perfect – Ed Sheeran, All of Me – John Legend
Parent Dances	Sentimental & heartfelt	My Wish – Rascal Flatts, Isn't She Lovely – Stevie Wonder
Dance Floor Opener	Upbeat, crowd favorite	Uptown Funk – Bruno Mars, I Wanna Dance with Somebody – Whitney Houston
Last Dance (Final Song)	Nostalgic or high-energy	Bohemian Rhapsody – Queen, Don't Stop Believin' – Journey



Pro Tip: A professional DJ ensures smooth transitions between these moments, avoiding awkward pauses or offbeat song choices.

WORKING WITH YOUR DJ (OR BAND)

Your DJ is more than just someone playing music—they're the master of ceremony energy, crowd engagement, and seamless flow.

Key Questions to Ask Your DJ

Experience & Style

How do you read the crowd and adjust the music?

Have you worked at our venue before?

Song Selection & Personalization

Can we provide a must-play and do-not-play list?

How do you handle song requests from guests?

Logistics & Setup

What equipment do you provide (speakers, microphones, lighting)?

How much setup time do you need?

Do you have a backup DJ in case of emergency?



Pro Tip: A great DJ keeps the party alive while ensuring the night flows smoothly!

How to Create a Seamless Flow of Music (From Cocktail Hour to Last Dance)

A well-planned music timeline keeps the energy levels just right:

Cocktail Hour: Light background music

Dinner: Softer tunes that allow conversation

Reception Entrance: High-energy, fun track

Dance Floor: Build up to peak party songs

Last Dance: Choose a meaningful, high-energy, or sentimental song



Pro Tip: A skilled DJ reads the room – adjusting song choices based on guest energy levels.

Lighting & Sound Setup Tips

Great sound and lighting completely transform a wedding atmosphere!

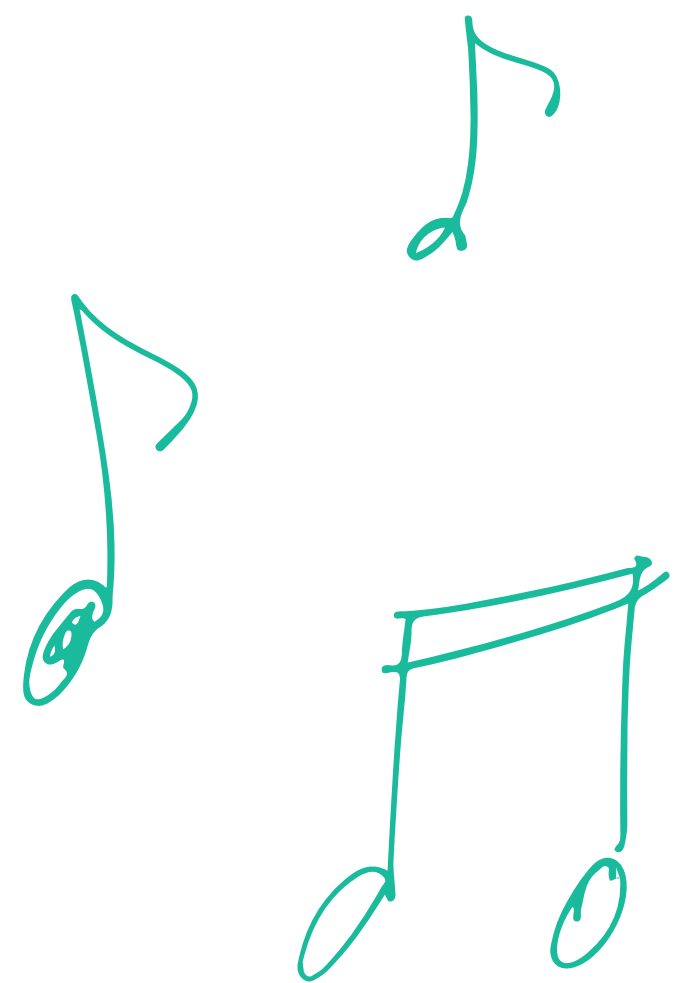
Ceremony: Wireless microphones for clear vows

Reception: Dance floor lighting to set the party mood

Outdoor Weddings: Ensure proper speaker placement for clear sound



Pro Tip: Airwaves Music provides professional-grade sound systems and lighting packages for an unforgettable experience!



THE DETAILS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE (DÉCOR, ATTIRE, AND MORE)

Beyond the big-picture planning, the details — lighting, attire, and photography—bring your wedding vision to life. This section will help you create the perfect ambiance, dress with confidence, and capture memories that last a lifetime.

How Lighting Affects Ambiance

Lighting is one of the most powerful décor elements, affecting the mood, tone, and photography of your wedding. Here's how to use it strategically:

1. Warm Lighting = Romantic & Intimate

Best For: Classic, rustic, and boho weddings

Effect: Creates a soft, golden glow that enhances skin tones and adds warmth to the atmosphere

- Candles & Lanterns – Perfect for centerpieces, altars, and outdoor receptions
- String Lights (Fairy Lights, Edison Bulbs) – Adds a whimsical, magical feel
- Uplighting with Warm Tones (Amber, Soft Gold, Peach) – Creates depth and coziness

2. Cool Lighting = Modern & Dramatic

Best For: Minimalist, contemporary, or industrial weddings

Effect: A sleek, sophisticated atmosphere with a polished, high-fashion look

- White or Blue Uplighting – Adds crispness and a cool glow to walls and décor
- LED Light Installations – Geometric or neon lights for a stylish touch
- Spotlights & Pin Lighting – Highlights key décor elements like floral arrangements

3. Dance Floor Lighting = High-Energy & Fun

Best For: Keeping the party going all night!

Effect: Adds movement, color, and excitement to the dance floor

- LED Color Washes & Moving Lights – Creates a nightclub-like experience
- Disco Balls & Strobe Lights – Adds sparkle and retro fun
- Gobo Lighting (Custom Light Projections) – Projects your names, monograms, or fun patterns on the dance floor



Pro Tips: Use warm lighting for dining areas to create a relaxed, inviting setting.

Cool lighting looks stunning in high-end, urban venues with exposed brick or modern architecture.

Lighting can completely transform your dance floor! A professional DJ setup includes dynamic lighting effects that sync with the music for the ultimate party atmosphere.

ATTIRE: DRESSING FOR THE BIG DAY

Your wedding attire is one of the most photographed aspects of your wedding, so you'll want to look and feel amazing.

Wedding Dress Styles & Silhouettes

Different body types shine in different dress silhouettes. Here are the main styles to consider:

- Ball Gown: Dramatic, fairy-tale style with a full skirt (best for formal & romantic weddings)
- A-Line: Universally flattering with a fitted bodice and flowing skirt (works for all body types)
- Mermaid: Figure-hugging and flared at the knees (perfect for modern, glamorous brides)
- Sheath: Sleek, minimalistic, and elegant (great for beach or boho weddings)
- Tea-Length: Vintage and playful (ideal for casual or city weddings)

Suits & Tuxedos for the Groom

- Classic Suit vs. Tuxedo: Suits are more versatile, while tuxedos are reserved for formal black-tie weddings.

Colors to Consider:

Classic: Black, navy, charcoal (timeless, elegant)

Trendy: Burgundy, deep green, or patterns (modern & bold)

Summer/Beach: Light gray, beige, or linen suits (breathable & stylish)

Bridesmaids & Groomsmen Outfits

Mix & Match Bridesmaid Dresses: Give bridesmaids a color palette and let them choose styles that suit their body type.

Groomsmen Coordination: Matching ties, pocket squares, or boutonnieres create a cohesive look without being overly uniform.

Accessories & Final Touches

For the Bride: Veils, earrings, and hairpieces should complement—the dress.

For the Groom: A sleek watch, cufflinks, and polished shoes complete the look.



Pro Tips: Consider movement and comfort — if you want to dance all night, avoid super-tight or overly layered dresses!

Tailoring is key — an affordable suit that fits perfectly looks better than an expensive one that doesn't!

Shoes matter! Choose comfortable yet stylish shoes so you can dance all night.

Photography & Videography

Your wedding photos and videos last forever, so choosing the right photographer and videographer is key.

Must-Have Shots & Video Moments

Photography Checklist:

- Getting ready shots (bride, groom, bridal party)
- First look (if applicable)
- Ceremony moments (vows, ring exchange, first kiss)
- Candid guest reactions
- Couple's portraits
- Family & bridal party portraits
- Reception highlights (first dance, cake cutting, toasts, dance floor fun)
- Grand exit (sparklers, confetti, classic car send-off)



Pro Tip: Golden hour (right before sunset) is the best time for dreamy, romantic couple portraits!

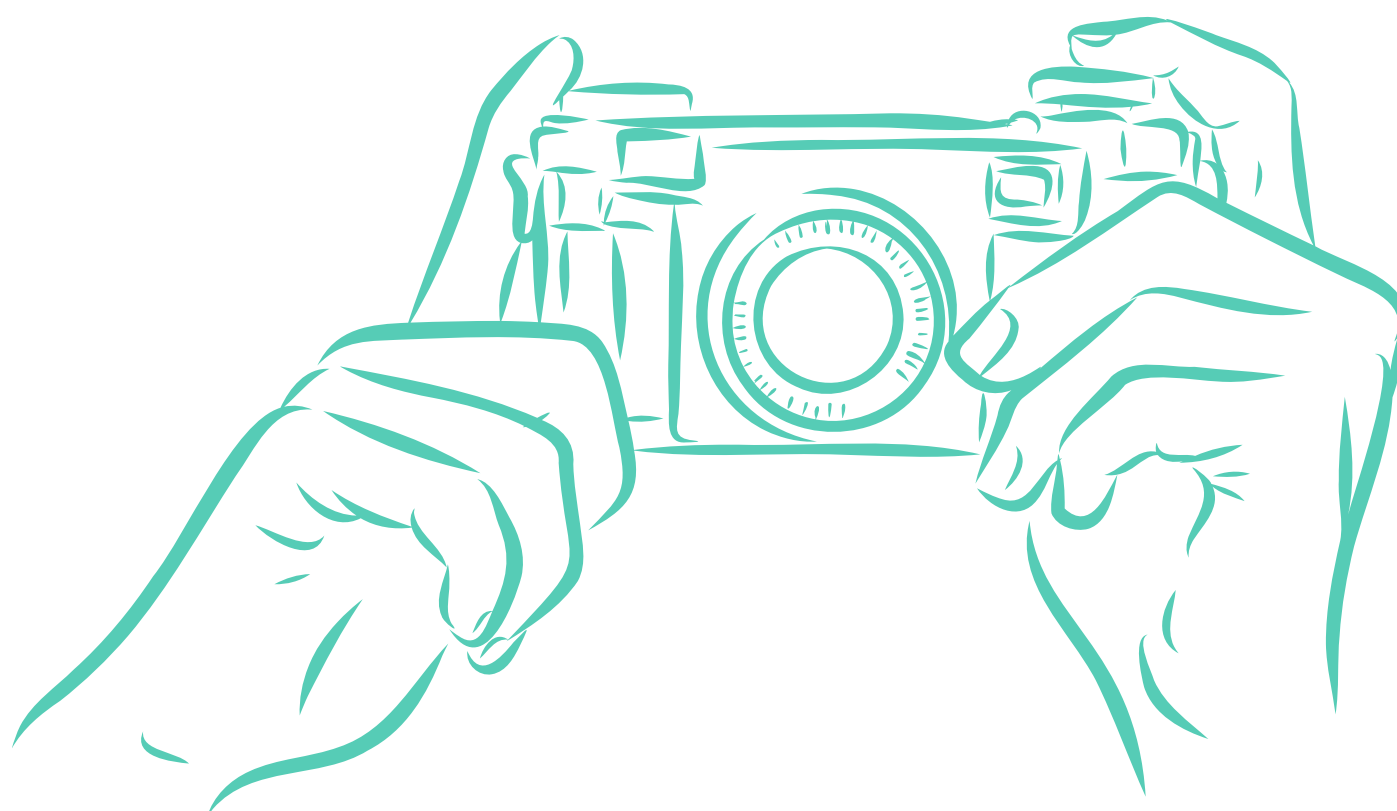
Choosing the Right Photographer & Videographer

Key Questions to Ask:

- ? What's your photography/videography style? (Candid, traditional, editorial, cinematic)
- ? Have you shot at our venue before?
- ? What's included in your packages? (Albums, prints, highlight reels, full-length videos)
- ? How do you handle low-light situations (for evening receptions)?



Pro Tip: Book your photographer at least 9-12 months in advance – the best ones get booked fast!



BONUS SECTION: WEDDING PLANNING CHEAT SHEETS

Planning a wedding involves a lot of moving parts, but having clear, structured guides can make the process stress-free and organized. This bonus section is designed to give you quick-reference cheat sheets that you can use at any stage of your planning journey.

Wedding Planning Timelines (12 Months, 6 Months, Last-Minute Planning)

12-Month Wedding Planning Timeline (Ideal for Most Couples)

12+ Months Before – Set budget, book venue, hire key vendors (DJ, photographer, planner)

9-11 Months Before – Choose attire, send save-the-dates, start planning décor

6-8 Months Before – Book florals, order invitations, finalize menu

3-5 Months Before – Finalize playlists, schedule dress fittings, plan honeymoon

1-2 Months Before – Send invites, confirm vendors, create wedding timeline

Final Weeks – Pack emergency kit, attend final fittings, get ready to celebrate!



Pro Tip: If you're booking a high-demand DJ or photographer, secure them at least 9-12 months in advance!

6-Month Wedding Planning Timeline (For Shorter Engagements)

6 Months Before – Book venue, vendors, and dress shopping ASAP

4 Months Before – Send invites, finalize décor, order wedding rings

2-3 Months Before – Confirm RSVPs, book hair & makeup, finalize playlists

1 Month Before – Create timeline, confirm all logistics, pack honeymoon essentials



Pro Tip: Focus on the must-haves (venue, music, attire, food) and simplify extras to avoid stress.

Last-Minute Wedding Timeline (3 Months or Less!)

If you're planning a wedding on short notice, prioritization is key.

Book venue, officiant, DJ, and photographer first

Find a ready-to-wear dress or suit to avoid long alteration waits

Send digital invitations to save time

Use a wedding planner or coordinator to streamline logistics



Pro Tip: Choose a venue that offers all-inclusive packages (catering, décor, rentals) to simplify planning!

Checklist of Key Vendor Questions

Before booking vendors, make sure to ask the right questions to avoid surprises later.

DJ & Entertainment Questions

- How do you create the perfect playlist for our wedding?
- Do you take song requests from guests?
- What sound and lighting equipment do you provide?
- How do you handle transitions between songs and events?
- What's your backup plan if you can't make it?

Venue Questions

- What's included in the rental fee? (Tables, chairs, sound system, lighting, etc.)
- Are there any noise restrictions or music curfews?
- What's the backup plan for bad weather (if outdoors)?

Photographer & Videographer Questions

- What's your style (traditional, candid, cinematic, editorial)?
- How long after the wedding will we receive our photos/videos?
- Will you provide full-resolution digital files?

Catering Questions

- Do you offer menu tastings before we finalize our selection?
- Can you accommodate dietary restrictions?
- How is food served — buffet, plated, or family-style?



Pro Tip: Always get vendor details in writing to avoid last-minute surprises.

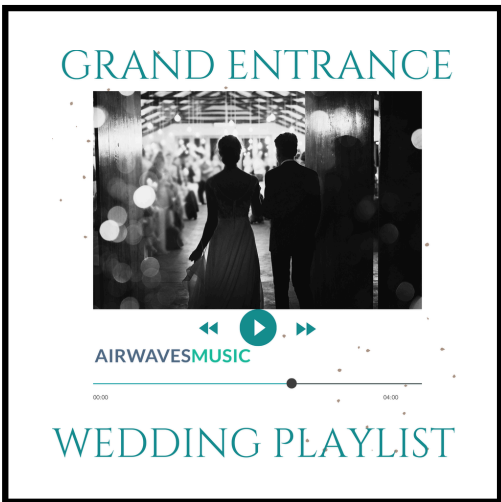


Ultimate Wedding Playlist Ideas

Crafting the perfect playlist ensures that each moment of your wedding has the right mood and energy.



Romantic Ceremony Songs



Fun Grand Entrance Songs



Dance Floor Anthems



Slow Dance Favorites



Pro Tip: A great DJ reads the crowd in real time, adjusting the playlist to keep guests engaged and dancing all night long!