

## Shaw Productions Inc.

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### What you need to know about DJ's and Bands for your wedding day!

Are you worried about your DJ talking too much rather than spinning the music? An experienced wedding Disc jockey will only speak when it's appropriate. When a DJ speaks, he should have something important to say. Not cheesy things like "somebody scream" etc. So have your wedding planned out to ensure that he or she does not abuse the microphone, be specific about when you want him to talk and when you don't. If you're nervous that he will talk too much, then give him an example of what you find inappropriate. It might be best to have your bridesmaid or your mother talk to the DJ and to let him know that this is YOUR day not his. You are the star of the show. Another thing that is important is the lighting. Video cameras fight for light and often a very dark room tends to look grainy on video. Your first dance together must have a lighted dance floor. A dark dance floor with flashing lights is a disaster! You are the star during this dance so get those lights up! Try saving ambient lighting for later in the evening and be sure the lights are on for the cake, garter toss and bouquet toss.

To make sure that your band doesn't take too many breaks, try asking them to break during dinner (this gives people a chance to talk anyway) and of course they can break during the toasting. See if they can bring some cd's of music to play during their breaks too.

Worried that your DJ might play Rap music and the Electric Slide, when you're thinking more along the lines of romantic music? Basically the DJ wants to play what you want to hear, but you have to communicate your tastes clearly. Don't rely on words alone, since terms like *dance music*, *rock and roll*, and *slow songs* are pretty vague and can easily be misinterpreted. To make sure you are on the same music style page, give him a play list and a do-not-play list. You should be able to customize your song choices. But remember, your list does not need to be long. Just indicating samples of what you want will give him the idea of what your likes and dislikes are. Your list should only be a guideline so keep it short. Remember, changing speeds, styles, and eras of music will keep wedding guests of all ages more engaged and encourage them to broaden the range of music they'll boogie to, with truly memorable results. The only exception is that softer music during dinner is best.

And of course, be sure that your DJ or band has a venue. He needs to know what time is the cake cutting and garter and bouquet toss. The rule of thumb is that if it's a 4 hour reception then those 3 things should be done about 2 - 2 ½ hours after it begins. And of course be sure the DJ or band lets the photographers and videographers know about 5 minutes prior so they can get in position before the guests.