

MUSICIANS BOOKING INFORMATION

1. What kind of musicians can I book with the Artists Booking Service?

We have a range of ensembles on our books including soloists, duos, trios, quartets and even a full marching band! They play a number of instruments and have an array of musical styles to suit your event.

2. What is your minimum booking time for musicians?

Our minimum booking time is one hour.

3. My wedding or event is not for 12 months; can I book a musician now?

No, the Artists Booking Service has a policy of not taking bookings for events or weddings more than 6 months in advance of the date. This is because details such as date, times, venue and sometimes even the whole vibe of an event can change rapidly in the early planning stages. To avoid this we suggest firstly looking at our website for the musicians available, speaking with your venue about what's worked well in the past and discussing with your colleagues or fiancée what they would like then contact us 6 months before to begin the booking process. Don't worry you won't miss out!

4. I have no idea what style of music I should select for our function; can you help?

Of course! For many people, their wedding or corporate party is the first time they have confronted the sometimes-impenetrable world of live music. We have had years of experience sourcing music for events, we provide repertoire lists for most ensembles, and our performers are happy to suggest music that will suit your event.

5. I would like some musicians to play at my wedding ceremony, how long should I book them for? We recommend that our minimum booking of one hour is sufficient for a standard wedding ceremony. This ensures that the musicians are playing whilst your guests arrive, during the bride's processional, at the signing of the registry, whilst the bride and groom leave together and then as guests depart for the reception.

6. What kinds of music do people choose for their weddings?

This depends on what part of the wedding you are referring to. Most couples will choose different music for the ceremony and reception and we can supply either or both. Some couples even have three different ensembles/performers, one for the ceremony, one for the pre-dinner drinks, and one for the reception. Listed below are some of the more popular ensembles we have booked for wedding ceremonies. Please note however, if you have other ideas, let us know, we specialise in tailoring music to your requirements.

Ceremony

String Quartet – This tends to be the most popular choice and there is nothing like the romantic sound of strings to make your wedding special. The range of repertoire is virtually endless, so this tends to be one of the most flexible groups as well.

Solo Harp – The gentle melodious sound of the harp can add a sense of intimacy and occasion to your wedding. Again, there is a wide range of repertoire to choose from.

Harp and Flute Duo – This has proven to be a tremendously popular and successful ensemble for wedding ceremonies. Popular repertoire includes classical and also Celtic and world influenced performances.

Female Vocalist – We have stunning performers in either a classical or more contemporary idiom. The most popular choice tends to include Ave Maria. Most performers require some kind of accompaniment, so if there is no piano or organ on site, arrangements for a keyboard will have to be made. Alternatively a string ensemble may accompany the vocalist.

Reception

We have a wide variety of jazz, funk and Latin groups available for music at your reception, and our particular strength is fantastic female jazz vocalists.

7. Can your musicians perform whilst my friend or family member sings/plays at my wedding?

They can, however we don't usually encourage it for several reasons. Firstly, our musicians and your guest must arrange for rehearsal time prior to the date to prepare the performance, this can be difficult to organise because of people's busy schedules. And two, our artists will need to be remunerated for any additional rehearsal time as needed, which can become expensive.

8. I am having my event or wedding ceremony outside, what music would you suggest?

If you're planning an outdoor event it is best to speak the Artist Booking Service Coordinator about your venue before making any decisions. This is because there are several elements inherent to an outdoor event that can affect your music selection. Cover from the weather is very important for the musicians and their instruments, so is a power source for jazz bands to use for their amplification. The number of guests can also have an impact; large numbers of guests in an outdoor setting may not be able to hear a classical, acoustic soloist or duo because the setting will affect the sound quality and volume.

9. I have a specific song request for my event; can you help?

Yes, it is not uncommon for people to request specific pieces of music for wedding ceremonies, receptions (such as a special song for the bridal waltz) or large-scale corporate functions. All our acts are always willing to arrange and perform special requests. However, it is a good idea to discuss your ideas with the Coordinator first to ensure that the piece of music you have in mind can be performed by the ensemble selected. If the piece you have selected is not already in the ensemble's repertoire we charge an additional \$60 + GST as well as any sheet music costs for the arrangement of the music.

10. Our event schedule will include an hour of speeches when the musicians will not need to be playing, do I need to pay them for this time?

Yes, fees are calculated on the amount of time artists are required on site even if they are not required to perform for the full duration of the booking.

11. When will the musicians take a break?

Our musicians will need 15 minutes of rest every hour, it's important that they have access to water and rest rooms and if the booking is longer than 3 hours you will also need to provide them with a light meal.

12. What time will the musicians be there to set up?

The musicians will be there 30 minutes before they need to begin playing to set up. If you require them to be there earlier we charge \$25 + GST per person for every additional hour that they are required.

13. Can I hear the performers before I book them?

All our performers and ensembles have recorded demonstration material on our website or in their profiles which we send to you.

14. Can I meet with the performers before I book to discuss my event and see them perform live?

Generally no, our artists are juggling part-time work, study, rehearsals and other gigs unfortunately they don't have time to provide that kind of service. Unless the band has an upcoming public gig that you can attend it is usually not possible for us to arrange a private performance beforehand. Our role at the ABS is to assist you in making the booking process as easy as possible by providing images, bios, demos, videos and answering your questions about the group.

15. What requirements are the musicians likely to need on the day?

Musicians will need access to chairs with no arms. If your event is outdoors, the musicians will need cover/shade, not only for their own comfort, but also for the benefit of their instruments. It's also important that they have access to water and rest rooms and if the booking is longer than 3 hours you will also need to provide them with a light meal.

16. What electrical requirements will the ensembles need?

As a general rule, classical ensembles need no amplification, whilst jazz ensembles will need access to power. This need only be a power point; all amplification equipment and power boards will be supplied by your ensemble, unless otherwise negotiated. All electrical equipment brought on to the site will be tagged and tested.

