



TO-DO TIMELINE

SIX MONTHS DONE

- Discuss with your fiancé the kind of music you'd enjoy at your ceremony and reception, and your budget.....
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- Search for performers by visiting live shows, listening to demo tapes, surfing the internet and getting recommendations from friends. Your church may be able to provide a choir, bell ringers and even a soloist. Alternatively, inquire after flautists, string quartets or jazz bands at your local music college.....
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- Book your reception music as soon as possible, as the best acts will be booked months in advance. Always watch them perform, either live or on video, before paying a deposit. Both you and the band should sign a written contract outlining the date, time, location, length of performance, time allocated for breaks and any additional charges such as travel costs, meals or overtime.....
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- Check with your venue about equipment, microphones and speakers. Is there room for a dance floor, lectern etc?.....
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ONE MONTH

- Confirm with musicians.....
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- Give the DJ or musicians your play lists. Make sure they know when to play the bridal dance
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MUSIC

Cocktail hour at the reception hits all the right notes with guests, says popular wedding singer Naomi Giselle

Latest trends

Couples are looking for music for an hour or so as their guests arrive at the reception, explains wedding singer Naomi Giselle. 'I call it "cocktail hour" and it's become my favourite part of the wedding day,' she says. 'It's the time when guests arrive at the reception and are having drinks and canapés while the bride and groom are having their photos taken. During this time it's great to have relaxed music to keep the mood of the party going.'

Naomi sings a number of great jazz standards in the style of Michael Bublé and Diana Krall, but also helps couples choose music that has meaning to them.

'When the bride and groom arrive I ask them to choose a song to announce their arrival. Some of my most requested songs are *It Had to Be You* by Harry Connick Jr, Dido's *Thank You*, and James Blunt's *You're Beautiful*.'

Expert tips

• If you are marrying in a church, check with the minister whether they allow popular music. Some prefer the more traditional approach

and this will affect the music you choose.

- Whether you marry in a traditional church ceremony or at a vineyard, beach, or garden, a singer and a string quartet, harp player, or guitarist are all great options.
- At the start of your reception as you meet and greet, it's great to have a singer and jazz band or classical music with a string quartet.
- As the night progresses everyone will have a few drinks and will want to kick up their heels. Choose a great live band that plays some of your favourite songs, but also includes a few classics for your older guests.
- Pick songs to highlight the important moments of your reception such as when the bride and groom arrive as husband and wife, the bridal waltz and cutting the cake.

Naomi's fave wedding songs

- *Ave Maria*
- *The Way You Look Tonight*
- *When I Fall In Love*
- *I Knew I Loved You* (Savage Garden)
- *The Prayer*
- *From This Moment On*
- *Embraceable You* (Gershwin)

Wed-site we love

naomigiselle.com.au

Classically trained singer Naomi Giselle performs classics through to favourites. She also helps couples choose music that suits their style of wedding and personal tastes.

* For more information regarding wedding day music, see BRIDETOBE.COM.AU