

How to pick right wedding band for you!

By **EDDIE BRUCE**

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In all my years on the bandstand, the one comment clients have consistently made is that music was the most important aspect of their wedding, what made it most memorable. Of course, the flowers and food have to be good but that's not what people remember. They remember if they danced! They remember the music!

If you look at it financially, choosing the right entertainment is like an insurance policy. Think of all the other money that is spent on a wedding. Making the right choice with music can just about guarantee your party is a success, even if some other things might not work out so well.

So how do you make the right choice for your music? Here are tips that can help guide your decision:

Pick your band by starting with recommendations.

Talk to people you trust, people who have made weddings.

Try to remember the parties you have attended and really enjoyed the music.

Ask your vendors who they recommend— your florists, caterers, photographers and more. If you hear the name of certain bands repeatedly, you'll know these bands are reliable. Reputation matters.

Research on the Internet.

Check out the bands online, visit their Web sites, listen to them and see how they look. It's a great advantage.

There's more to a wedding band than what you see at a Showcase.

Many bands do live showcases. It's become almost



THE EDDIE BRUCE BAND

mandatory. I believe that showcasing, while helpful, can be misleading. Any group of musicians can learn a terrific 30 minute showcase but does that really tell you how they maneuver through a four-hour wedding? At the same time, a band with vast experience and know-how can never display that in only 30 minutes. If you do attend a showcase, use it as only one of many factors to make your decision.

Get to Know Your Bandleader.

A great band for a wedding needs experience, great talent and repertoire and a great bandleader who understands the difference between running a wedding and playing in a club. Meet directly with the bandleader who will run your party and not a salesperson. It's so important that you develop a personal relationship with the actual person who will be

sharing your special day with you and your family.

Ask the Right Questions.

Will the band learn new music for your party?

Do they have ideas on alternatives for first dances and parents' dances?

Do they look beyond their song lists and will they be creative in working with you on your ideas?

Finally, trust your gut and don't base your decision on one factor alone.

If a band has a great reputation, is in your budget, has been recommended by others and you like their sound, that's all important. There's more, too. Look for that extra special connection you develop with the bandleader. It matters. It can make the difference between a great wedding and not so

Whether he's entertaining a group of 50 or 500, there's no one better as the leader of an orchestra that entertains at social and corporate events.

A regular at Caesar's in Atlantic City, the Eddie Bruce Orchestra has also performed at Bally's Park Place, the Etes. Arena of Trump Taj Mahal as well as such major events as the prestigious Grand Gala Opening of the Kimmel Center for The Performing Arts in Philadelphia.

He performs at the most coveted hotels and wedding spaces in the region and beyond — from The Rittenhouse Hotel and Four Seasons in Philadelphia to The Palace and St. Regis hotels in New York.

The Eddie Bruce Band is now available as a seven-piece unit featuring Eddie Bruce and the incredible Charlene Holloway.

They are accompanied by a four-piece rhythm section and the incomparable Mike Mee on tenor/soprano sax and flute. Bands can be built by expanding the horn section or adding additional vocalists.

The band is versatile and has a repertoire that spans from Sinatra to Beyonce. With Eddie Bruce you are guaranteed a unique combination of a smoking hot dance ensemble, concert quality vocalists, world-class musicians and arrangements that drive the dance floor.

Eddie Bruce is also a successful cabaret performer who was the No. 1 Box Office attraction at the Prince Music Theater's cabaret in Philadelphia.

He performs often in New York and has an upcoming date at Feinstein's, New York's famed supper club, on September 26.

For more information, visit www.eddiebruce.com or call 215-922-4220.

great wedding. Ask yourself, can I trust this most important event, my wedding, to this person? Do I want to share this night with this band?

If you do your homework, you'll know your answer.

About the Eddie Bruce Band

For more than 30 years, the Eddie Bruce Band has been performing their unique repertoire of music that ranges from Top 40, R & B, Disco and house music to Swing and Sinatra.

Eddie's interest in music began when he was a child, and he has never wavered from this passion.

He has blended his natural entrepreneurial skills with his love of music and created one of the most successful orchestras in the region and one of the best reputations as a much sought-after performer.