

# Gil Donatelli Music

## Wedding Plans List

Dear Wedding Couple:

No two weddings are alike. Every couple puts their own stamp upon their special day – and often it's those little touches of individuality that make a wedding memorable for those present. I agree with Wende Vyborney of Wednet.com who said: "When it comes to weddings, "tradition" is a moving target! One decade's tradition is another decade's forgotten and irrelevant custom. There are also major variations according to region and religion." With that in mind, please understand that I would be happy to do as much or as little emceeing as you would like. When I call you during the two-week period before your wedding, I will be asking you for information pertaining to the topics listed below. I hope this list will be a help to you while you are planning your wedding reception. This is provided for you only as an aid to bring attention to some areas you may not have considered at this point. I understand that you will be implementing some ideas and rejecting others while creating your event. Please remember that I would still like to talk over each point with you in greater detail. At that time, I will make my own list so you need not send anything to me.

### The Band

Stage: The stage area should be at least 8' x 12' minimum for our quintet or smaller bands; 8' x 16' minimum for the septet or larger bands with access to a 110-volt, 20 amp **grounded** outlet. We should be off the ground on a platform or stage for home receptions.

-- What time will your guests arrive? (We will be set up prior to that time)

-- Will you need cocktail music before the dinner set? (We can provide this for an additional fee)

-- Will you need music for your ceremony? If you would like to use our musicians, approval is often required from the minister and/or the regular church musician. (We can provide you with soloists and custom ensembles for an additional fee)

### The Reception

1. Photographer? If so, who and what company?
2. Video? Name and company.
3. Place: Specific directions if necessary.
4. Wedding reception facility coordinator's name.
5. Introductions? If so, please provide wedding party names (paired up and in order). I'll go over pronunciations with you.
6. Toast? If so, who and when? (In most cases it's best right after the announcements).  
(You will also have to share this information with the wedding manager who must make sure that the toast is poured or served at the correct time).
7. Blessing? If so, who and when? (Usually precedes toast).
8. Cake Cutting? When? Simple announcement and/or background music?
9. First Dance? What song? Will the parents cut in? Will the rest of the wedding party cut in?
10. Will there be a separate bride dance with her father? If so, what song?
11. Will there be a separate groom dance with his mother? If so, what song?
12. Tossing of the garter and bouquet? Both, one, none?
13. Last slow song together? If so, do you have a song in mind?
14. Special requests? Any ethnic traditions I should know about? Do you know of any relatives' favorite songs?  
Are there any musical friends or relatives you want to "sit-in" with the band? (Subject to the qualification of the bandleader)
15. Do you want or not want birthday's and anniversaries... recognized?
16. Are there any particular songs or styles of music you would like performed (or avoided)?

### Meal Instructions.

Are there any special meal instructions? Will it be necessary to ask people to pour their own toast? Is it buffet-style? If so, will the host or hostess direct people to the serving table? Is the band to eat? (Certainly not required but it is helpful if I know what you have planned so that the musicians can plan accordingly) Do you want to encourage dancing before dinner?

### Receiving Lines

Just a word about receiving lines: They work best at the church where the people are more or less "forced" to keep their trip through the line brief and their conversation short. At the reception where the atmosphere is relaxed and casual, people take too long to pass through. The lines last at least an hour with 125 guests or more and that forces the band to play two sets of atmosphere music leaving you with only two sets of dance music (for a typical four hour performance).

### Miscellaneous Considerations

Please give careful thoughtful consideration as to where you will seat your older guests. They usually do not prefer to be seated near the band's speaker system. We adjust the volume to the mood of the audience on the dance floor, and certainly we are not a loud band, but some older guests no longer dance and would enjoy being able to converse easily during the reception. Placing non-dancing and/or older guests away from the main speakers, or off to the sides will help facilitate easy conversation.

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