

Bride Manhattan Bride



ENJOY YOUR GREAT DAY!

"When you're choosing your band, find out how long they've been in business," says Scott Homak of **Craig Scott Entertainment**, which has helped plan and perform at hundreds of weddings and events every year since first opening in 1984.

"Are they familiar with the acoustics and the physical set up at your venue?" If Scott's company hasn't performed at a particular location, they do a "site" inspection. "We check where the music for the ceremony, cocktail, and reception will be — so we can make sure there is enough electrical power and space to support what the bride and groom want." They also talk with management ahead of time to review all the specifics about the venue, "so we know everything will run smoothly on your big day."

ENTERTAIN YOUR GUESTS ... "You don't want the music to stop when the meal is served," says Scott, "but you certainly want it softer, while still being fun and entertaining." Scott feels the music during the courses can help entertain all your guests, and include "unplugged" contemporary songs like "Impossible" by Shontelle, and even Dave Mathews, to Broadway and of course Great American songbook elections.

"Ask what the band will be wearing," says Scott. "Make sure your entertainment has a polished presentation that fits your venue."

"Since every wedding is interesting and unique in its own way, we spend time with our bridal couples to really get a feel for what they are looking for, and then try to advise them of the best way we can achieve their dream." Everything is put together specifically for that wedding.

IN A HOTEL, A GARDEN, OR BY THE BEACH ... "We've had brides and grooms who've had 16 violins all around the upper balcony of their hotel ceremony. It gave you goosebumps when they played 'Canon in D.' Other brides have had a garden ceremony, where often the best approach is very natural, and they go with a classical guitar." They recently had a beach wedding, with steel drums playing, 'One Love' for the recessionist. "It's all about capturing the bride's personality."

When you have your ceremony, cocktail hour, and reception at the same location, Scott suggests viewing it like a classical piece of music with distinct movements. "Your first movement is your ceremony, where you create a distinct atmosphere, usually softer and more subdued, that will reflect your heritage or personality.

"When you get to the second movement, or cocktail hour, you want to change the tone. You're typically also changing the room or the area at the venue, so now you want your music to create a different, livelier feeling.

"You want everyone to have a great time at your reception, so make the cocktail hour music fun, but be careful to not overwhelm. I love bringing the guests into the ballroom with upbeat music to get everyone dancing — even before the bride and groom are introduced into the room. It sets your wedding apart from other weddings and builds a great foundation for the rest of the reception."

Craig Scott Entertainment has a full support staff to guide you through the planning process. "Our company is always striving to exceed expectations on the day of your wedding — and also in the months and weeks leading up to your day."

DINNER PERFORMANCE ... Recently, they also started offering what they call "Ovation." During the main course, they bring in special entertainment, such as steel drum bands, 'Rat Pack' shows, Broadway singers or reviews, or ethnic dancers. "It's like Dinner Theater entertainment, and it helps ensure that the entire reception is entertaining, during what is normally considered 'down time.'"

Of course, they can accommodate almost any request, with international music from Russian, Israeli/Klezmer, Italian, Irish, Broadway, Contemporary, Sinatra, and Motown. "The most exciting part of performing at a wedding is being able to get everyone dancing and entertained for hours," says Scott. "The energy from a dance floor packed with people having a great time is simply amazing."

MINGLE, TALK, ENJOY! ... "Enjoy the whole planning process," says Scott. "Yes, it can get a little stressful, but remember, you are planning a party! You want fond memories of laughing with your spouse. Have fun!

"Mingle and speak with as many of your guests as you can. Enjoy the food, the drink and the company of all your friends and family. Finally, hire professionals you feel good about. Give them your ideas and trust them to do their job and to create your 'Signature Wedding.'"

"On the day of your wedding, let go and enjoy your great day!"

**CRAIG SCOTT
ENTERTAINMENT**

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