



Tips on Booking a Band for Your Event

So you'd like to book a band for your upcoming event, but don't know where to start? Let us guide you!

The following is a list of suggestions and items bands might expect when booking a gig. We hope this helps you!

Before the Event:

- When calling to book a band, make sure that you provide enough time for them to plan for your event. This helps to ensure that there are no date conflicts and for any special arrangements that may have been made (i.e. specific music, themed music, etc.)
- Have the details of the event ready to discuss including date, how many sets you'd like them to play and for how long, if the event is inside or outside, and if a PA Sound System is already provided by yourself or the venue. Have an idea of how much you are willing to spend on entertainment as well.
- Consider how many band members are in the band when trying to settle on a price, and expect to pay more for bands that have many members. Remember that you are paying not only paying them for their actual set time(s), but consider the time it takes them to set-up, tear-down, and even time to rehearse before your event, as well as gas and other expenses they might incur.
- If you do not own a PA system or the venue does not have one, bands may charge you extra for providing their own due to more time being spent setting up and tearing down.
- Make sure that both parties agree to the amount of money that is being offered before the event, and consider having the discussion documented in a contract or an email to help ensure that there are no misunderstandings.
- Some bands may request payment before the event to guarantee that they have been paid for the event. This can be a positive thing, especially if you have other duties throughout the event to worry about.
- When hiring a band, consider the amount of time you are asking them to play. If you are asking them to play more than a 90 minute set, make sure that you schedule band breaks for them to take throughout the event. This helps to ensure that band performance is at its highest as the day goes on.

During the Event:

- It is courtesy to supply beverages (and food if available) to the band. Water should always be easily accessible to members of the band, especially during the spring and summer months.

- If the event is being hosted outside, provide some sort of coverage for the band to prevent any inclement weather that may come along that may cause damage to expensive equipment as well as insure the artist's safety.
- If your event gets cancelled due to weather or other factors, payment is still expected by the band in most cases. They have set aside the date that you booked them for to play rain or shine, and even if it ends up being cancelled you should still provide their payment for that date.

After the Event:

- If you are able, most bands prefer to be paid in cash so that they can easily split up their guarantee between members. Ask your band contact in advance what they would prefer.
- If the band you hired did a great job, refer them to your friends! Nothing shows thanks and appreciation more than referrals!