WHAT’S INCLUDED IN THIS GUIDE

A Letter from Nate: Chief Entertainment Officer, Amplify Entertainment

The First Dance

35 Song Ideas for the First Dance

30 Song Ideas for the Father-Bride Dance

30 Song Ideas for the Mother-Groom Dance

25 Song Ideas for the Bouquet Toss

120 Song Ideas for the Garter Retrieval & Toss

Introducing the Wedding Party + 18 Song Ideas

The Generations Dance

15 Song Ideas for the Generations Dance

The Must-Play List

The Do-Not-Play List

Events Evolved: How We Use Technology to Wow Your Guests

- Hey DJ! Mobile Request System
- Monogram Lighting
- Uplighting
- Story of Us
- KidStation

Sample Wedding Day Timeline
A LETTER FROM NATE

If you’re reading this guide, you’re likely preparing to enter a very exciting time in your life. Congratulations on your engagement and upcoming wedding!

Some History

When I DJed my first wedding way back in 2002, I felt honored that the couple about to get married placed so much trust in someone they barely knew to make their wedding reception entertainment a success. If they didn’t realize how important a role the entertainment would play at their reception that night, they would eventually find out when speaking with friends and family who attended. In fact, 81 percent of wedding reception guests surveyed for an article published in St. Louis Bride & Groom Magazine reported that entertainment was the one aspect they remember most about wedding receptions they attend. And the brides? Within one week after their reception, 78 percent of brides say they would have made entertainment their top priority -- higher than food, attire, photography, wedding cake and even the venue! The wedding reception that night in 2002 was a beautiful celebration as friends and family enjoyed each other’s company and danced the night away.

More than a decade and hundreds of weddings later, I still feel honored to be included in such momentous occasions. In 2006, I started my own DJ company to fill some substantial gaps I saw in the DJ industry. Today, Amplify Entertainment focuses on creating a personal connection with our clients and their guests. We make it easy for you to build the framework of your wedding reception entertainment as we guide you through each step.

We Love to Wow You and Your Guests

As technology and social media continue to change the world in ways we never imagined, Amplify Entertainment embraces the evolution of wedding entertainment. In fact, we were the first wedding DJ company in the nation that could allow your
guests the ability to send their song requests to the DJ using their mobile devices. Our Hey DJ! Mobile Request System has won numerous awards and accolades since it launched back in 2011. We also offer KidStation, which lets parents enjoy longer wedding receptions while their kids play games and watch movies on an all-in-one mobile entertainment station.

With our “Story of Us” Presentation, we can create a stunning wedding video from digital photos you provide, which we can display in full, high definition for your guests to enjoy. We custom design each Monogram Lighting package from scratch, and our Uplighting options can be programmed to match your favorite wedding color(s) perfectly. We’re obsessed with details and making sure that your wedding is as unique and awesome as you are.

**All About Flexibility**
Can’t choose between a DJ and live music? Booking both can be very expensive... until now. Amplify Entertainment now allows you to add a classical guitarist, live violinist or a live cocktail band to your wedding package, saving you money and avoiding unnecessary hassle.

**How to Use This Guide**
This guide is designed as a companion tool to our Wedding Reception Planner and Wedding Ceremony Planner. Together, these tools can help you build your wedding entertainment plan from the ground up, and we’ll be here to help you each step of the way. Our DJs and I look forward to working with you as wedding consultants and day-of performers to ensure that together we create the wedding of your dreams. Best of luck as you plan for your big day!

Sincerely,

Nate Long
Chief Entertainment Officer
Amplify Entertainment
THE FIRST DANCE

You and your future spouse have probably shared many dances during your relationship, but when you arrive at your wedding reception, you’ll dance together for the first time ever as a married couple. Your First Dance will be one of the most memorable parts of your wedding reception. The song you choose will be uniquely special to the two of you for the rest of your lives. No pressure, of course!

Although it’s the most important song choice of the entire wedding reception, it doesn’t have to be difficult to choose. Here are a few ways you can make your selection:

- Choose the song you both consider "your song." This could be a song that was playing when you first met, first danced together, first kissed, etc. Or it could just be a song the two of you grew to love.

- Did your parents dance to the same song your grandparents did when they got married? If so, it could be fun to carry on the tradition of generations.

- Consider researching a song whose lyrics best describe the two of you and your special relationship. Many websites are dedicated to transcribing song lyrics. You can Google to your heart’s content until you find that perfect match.

- Are either of you musically inclined? If you’ve ever written and recorded a love song (especially if it was dedicated to your future spouse), it’s golden. Go for it!

- Are you taking pre-wedding lessons for a specific style of dance? If so, your instructor can recommend specific songs that match the style of dance you’ll be performing.

- Still having a hard time? The next page contains songs that have proved very popular among our clients. Some may match your personality and some definitely won’t. You can pick one from the list, or just use it for inspiration.

If you have a few potentials and can’t seem to make a final decision, we can help you narrow down the perfect song based on certain aspects of the song you may not have been considering, including tempo, intro and outro, total length, etc.
35 SONG IDEAS FOR THE FIRST DANCE

- “Thinking Out Loud” – Ed Sheeran (Pop Rock)
- “How Long Will I Love You” – Ellie Goulding (Chill with Piano)
- “Overwhelmed” – Tim McMorris (Acoustic Love Song)
- “At Last” - Etta James (Relaxed)
- “From the Ground Up” (Sentimental Pop Country)
- “I Don’t Want to Miss a Thing” - Aerosmith (Love Anthem)
- “Amazed” - Lonestar (Light Country)
- “Come Away With Me” - Norah Jones (Jazzy)
- “A Thousand Years” - Christina Perri (Slow Pop)
- “All of Me” – John Legend (R&B)
- “I Won’t Give Up On Us” – Jason Mraz (Pop Rock)
- “Wanted” – Hunter Hayes (Country Pop)
- “You & Me” - Dave Matthews Band (Acoustic Rock)
- “Everything” - Michael Bublé (Smooth)
- “That’s How Strong My Love Is” – Otis Redding (Soul)
- “Bless the Broken Road” - Rascal Flatts (Pop Country & Sentimental)
- “When You Say Nothing At All” - Alison Krauss (Appreciative)
- “The Luckiest” - Ben Folds (Unique & Sentimental)
- “Let’s Get Married” - Jagged Edge (R&B)
- “Wonderful Tonight” - Eric Clapton (Soft Rock)
- “Better Together” – Jack Johnson (Acoustic Rock)
- “It’s Your Love” - Tim McGraw with Faith Hill (Country Duet)
- “Can You Feel the Love Tonight” - Elton John (Romantic Old School)
- “Never Stop” (Wedding Version) – SafetySuit (Christian Rock)
- “The Way You Look Tonight” - Frank Sinatra (Classy)
- “I Cross My Heart” - George Strait (Old School Country)
- “All My Life” - K-Ci & Jojo (R&B)
- “Only Thing Missing Was You” - Michael Franti & Spearhead (Reggae)
- “Now Comes the Night” – Rob Thomas (Light Rock)
- “Grow Old With You” - Adam Sandler OR ortoPilot (Fun)
- “Can’t Help Falling In Love” - Elvis Presley (Timeless) or Ingrid Michaelson (Modern)
- “Then (Piano Mix)” – Brad Paisley (Country)
- “I’ll Be” – Edwin McCain (‘90s Pop Rock)
- “Free” – Zac Brown Band (Folk)
- “Angel of Mine” - Monica
30 SONG IDEAS FOR THE FATHER-BRIDE DANCE

- “Walk With You” – Edwin McCain
- “Isn’t She Lovely” - Stevie Wonder
- “My Girl” – The Temptations OR Otis Redding
- “Just the Way You Are” – Billy Joel
- “My Little Girl” – Tim McGraw
- “The Way You Look Tonight” – Frank Sinatra
- “Butterfly Kisses” – Bob Carlise
- “Unforgettable” - Nat King Cole and Natalie Cole
- “In My Life” – The Beatles
- “Into the Mystic” – Van Morrison
- “Then They Do” - Trace Adkins
- “You Raise Me Up” – Josh Groban
- “Because You Loved Me” – Celine Dion
- “My Wish” – Rascal Flatts
- “Cinderella” – Steven Curtis Chapman
- “Dance With My Father” – Luther Vandross
- “Hero” - Mariah Carey
- “My Little Girl” – Tim McGraw
- “The Way You Look Tonight” – Frank Sinatra
- “Stealing Cinderella” – Chuck Wicks
- “Walk With You” – Edwin McCain
- “Wildflowers” – Tom Petty
- “Daughter” – Loudon Wainwright
- “Find Your Wings” – Mark Harris
- “How Long Will I Love You” – Ellie Goulding
- “You’ll Be In My Heart” – Phil Collins
- “You’ve Got a Friend in Me” – Michael Bublé
- “Daddy Dance With Me” – Krystal Keith
- “My Little Girl” – Jack Johnson
- “Father and Daughter” – Paul Simon
30 SONG IDEAS FOR THE MOTHER-GROOM DANCE

- “What a Wonderful World” - Louis Armstrong
- “A Song For Mama” – Boyz II Men
- “Have I Told You Lately” - Rod Stewart or Van Morrison
- “You Raise Me Up” – Josh Groban
- “Simple Man” – Lynyrd Skynyrd
- “Child of Mine” – Carole King
- “Just the Way You Are” – Billy Joel
- “Unforgettable” - Nat King Cole and Natalie Cole
- “How Sweet It Is” – Marvin Gaye
- “I Turn to You” - Christina Aguilera
- “There You’ll Be” – Faith Hill
- “I’m Your Angel” - Celine Dion and R. Kelly
- “Stand By Me” – Ben E. King
- “Hero” - Mariah Carey
- “My Wish” – Rascal Flatts
- “Forever Young” – Bob Dylan
- “Somewhere Over the Rainbow/What a Wonderful World” – Israel “Iz” Kamakawiwo’ole
- “Mamas Don’t Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Cowboys” – Willie Nelson
- “Landslide” by Fleetwood Mac
- “How Long Will I Love You” – Ellie Goulding
- “You’ll Be In My Heart” – Phil Collins
- “Thank You Mom” – Good Charlotte
- “Make Yourself At Home” – The Starting Line
- “The Perfect Fan” – Backstreet Boys
- “You’ve Got a Friend in Me” – Michael Bublé
- “Days Like This” – Van Morrison
- “Don’t Blink” – Kenny Chesney
- “Your Song” – Elton John
- “Mom” – Lucero
- “Godspeed (Sweet Dreams)” – Dixie Chicks
25 SONG IDEAS FOR THE BOUQUET TOSS

- “Girls Just Want To Have Fun” – Cyndi Lauper
- “Single Ladies” – Beyoncé
- “Formation” – Beyoncé
- “Ladies Night” – Kool and The Gang
- “This One’s For the Girls” – Martina McBride
- “It’s Raining Men” – The Weather Girls
- “P.Y.T.” – Michael Jackson
- “Dancing Queen” – ABBA
- “Lady Marmalade” – Christina Aquilera, Lil’ Kim, Mya & Pink
- “Countdown” – Beyoncé (yes, that’s three songs)
- “Girl on Fire” – Alicia Keys
- “American Woman” – The Guess Who or Lenny Kravitz
- “Another One Bites the Dust” – Queen
- “Milkshake” – Kelis
- “Country Girl (Shake It For Me)” – Luke Bryan
- “Good Girls Go Bad” – Cobra Starship
- “Bring ‘Em Out” – T.I.
- “Marry You” – Bruno Mars
- “Hollaback Girl” – Gwen Stefani
- “Single White Female” – Shania Twain
- “Wannabe” – Spice Girls
- “One Way or Another” – Blondie
- “Call Me Maybe” – Carly Rae Jepsen
- “Glamorous” – Fergie

Amplify Entertainment also suggests...
‘Yeah yeah, I want to do a bouquet toss, but I’m ready to get back to dancing!’ For a song that will get you right back on the dance floor after the bouquet is caught, try “Hips Don’t Lie” by Shakira feat. Wyclef Jean!

Watch This: Wedding Party Having a Little Fun with “All the Single Ladies”
20 SONG IDEAS FOR THE GARTER RETRIEVAL & TOSS

- “Legs” – ZZ Top
- “Foxey Lady” – Jimi Hendrix
- “Bad Boys” – Inner Circle
- “Sexy Back” – Justin Timberlake
- “American Woman” – The Guess Who or Lenny Kravitz
- “Brick House” – The Commodores
- “Bootylicious” – Destiny’s Child
- “I Like It, I Love It” – Tim McGraw
- “Low” – Flo-Rida feat. T-Pain
- “Wild Thing” – Tone-Loc
- “Bring ‘Em Out” – T.I.
- “Can’t Hold Us” – Macklemore & Ryan Lewis
- “The Boys Are Back in Town” – Thin Lizzy
- “Pony” – Gunuwine (make sure you’re ready for this one)
- “Suit & Tie” – Justin Timberlake feat. Jay-Z
- “Bump N’ Grind” – R. Kelly
- James Bond Theme Song (“Dr. No”)
- Mission Impossible Theme Song
- Indiana Jones Theme Song (“Raiders March”)

Amplify Entertainment also suggests...
Nothing beats Michael Bublé’s “Feelin’ Good” for setting the scene to launch the mission in obtaining the garter -- except maybe the James Bond theme song! For those stuck in the ’80s hair metal glory days, go ahead and let it out with Warrant’s “Cherry Pie.”

Listen to This: "Feelin’ Good" by Michael Bublé
INTRODUCING THE WEDDING PARTY

After your wedding ceremony is finished, you and your immediate family and wedding party will go take pictures. Ask your photographer about how long that session may last. It’s typically around 45 minutes to an hour, but we’ve seen them last much shorter and much longer as well. During this time, we’ll entertain your guests during what is called the Cocktail Hour. We call it the cocktail hour regardless of whether or not signature drinks are served and regardless of the how long it actually takes. It’s basically the time your wedding guests are being entertained while your pictures are taken. When finished with pictures, many couples choose to be introduced with their wedding party (and sometimes their parents) into the reception. This can be done with or without music, depending on the mood you’re going for. Naturally, we love the music option. The order typically goes like this: parents of the bride, parents of the groom, wedding party (from the bottom of the list up), and finally, the bride and groom. You can denote on your Wedding Reception Planner if, how and who you would like us to introduce.

Amplify Entertainment suggests...

Want to dance your way in as you and your wedding party are introduced? Here are a few great song options you might choose during introductions.

- “I Gotta Feeling” – Black Eyed Peas
- “Party Rock Anthem” – LMFAO
- “Bring Em Out” – T.I.
- “Sexy Back” – Justin Timberlake
- “All I Do Is Win” – DJ Khaled feat. T-Pain, Ludacris, Snoop Dogg & Rick Ross
- “Sexy and I Know It” – LMFAO
- “Countdown” – Beyoncé
- “Flashing Lights” – Kanye West
- “Gonna Fly Now (Theme From “Rocky”)” – Bill Conti
- “Gettin’ Jiggy Wit It” – Will Smith
- “Marry You” – Bruno Mars
- “Back In Time” – Pitbull
- “Sirius” – The Alan Parsons Project
- “Want to Want Me” – Jason Derulo
- “Forever” – Chris Brown
- “I Believe in a Thing Called Love” – The Darkness
- “Hold On, I’m Comin’” – Sam & Dave
- Your Team’s Fight Song!
THE GENERATIONS DANCE

Wedding receptions are a time for celebration. You’re likely to have guests at your reception who are married couples, old and young. The Generations Dance is a great way to celebrate their continued commitment to each other as they support you in your new adventure known as married life.

Here’s how it works: The DJ invites all married couples onto the dance floor (including you!) and starts a slow-dance love song. After about 30 seconds into the dance, couples who have been married less than a day (you!) leave the dance floor. Then, 30 seconds later, couples married less than a year are asked to exit the dance floor. Then, 5 years, 10 years, 20 years and so on until only one couple remains. It’s a wonderful moment to see the final couple out there on the dance floor still going strong -- both in dancing and in their marriage. The last couples on the dance floor are often grandparents of the bride or groom, which is a great way to acknowledge members of the family who don’t get much attention at weddings, compared to parents and the bridal party. You’re reminding your married guests about their wedding while celebrating yours. We love this dance and recommend it in most cases.
15 SONG IDEAS FOR THE GENERATIONS DANCE

- “Unchained Melody” - Righteous Brothers
- “Remember When” – Alan Jackson
- “The Luckiest” - Ben Folds
- “Stay With You” – John Legend
- “Through the Years” – Kenny Rogers
- “You Had Me From Hello” – Kenny Chesney
- “Can’t Help Falling in Love” – Elvis Presley
- “It Had To Be You” - Harry Connick, Jr.
- “I Just Want to Dance With You” – George Strait
- “Into the Mystic” – Van Morrison
- “Unforgettable” – Nat King Cole
- “Thinking Out Loud” – Ed Sheeran
- “From the Ground Up” – Dan + Shay
- “The Way You Look Tonight” – Frank Sinatra

Amplify Entertainment also suggests...

Is your wedding sporting a beach theme? If so, try “Over the Rainbow/What a Wonderful World” by Israel “Iz” Kamakawiwo’ole for this dance.

Take a Listen: “The Luckiest” by Ben Folds
THE MUST-PLAY LIST

When you picture your wedding reception, there are probably a few specific songs (other than the formal dance songs) that come to mind. Maybe you or your guests have a special connection to them or just really love dancing to them. These songs are perfect for your must-play list. Your DJ will make sure each of the songs are played at the perfect time during your wedding, or you can specify when they are played.

Remember, you are not responsible for creating your own wedding reception playlist, nor is it recommended. You hired a DJ to spend the many hours necessary to couple your favorite music styles with the needs and wants of your guests. Using the “Music Selection” section of your completed Wedding Reception Planner and your must-play list, called “Special Music Requests,” we’ll create a custom playlist unique to your reception. We recommend including five to ten songs on your must-play list. We can certainly accommodate more (as many as you’d like), but you don’t need to spend time building a playlist. Just include your favorites and we’ll fill in the rest. In fact, many couples don’t include a single song on their must-play list. Either way, we’ll make sure your favorite music genres are represented in our play list.
THE DO-NOT-PLAY LIST

In my opinion, the do-not-play list is more important than the must-play list. What I always tell my clients is to think of the people they’ve invited to their wedding reception and all of the songs they may request of the DJ. Assume they’ll request -- one by one -- all of your least favorite songs. You may not want to hear those songs on your wedding day. If not, add those to the do-not-play list and they won’t slip past the DJ.

A few examples of songs that guests often request (because they are danceable), but that you may not want played at your wedding include:

- The Chicken Dance
- The Macarena
- Y.M.C.A.
- The Electric Slide
- Love Shack
- Cotton Eyed Joe
- Mickey
- Celebration
- We Are Family
- Baby Got Back
- The Hokey Pokey
- Ice Ice Baby
- The Locomotion
- Red Solo Cup
- Strokin’ It
- Conga
- Cha Cha Slide
- Honky Tonk Badonkadonk
- Get Low (Lil Jon)
- Crank That (Soulja Boy)
- What Does the Fox Say?
- Gangnam Style

Sometimes I’ll see “anything by Nickelback” on the do-not-play list, or a song that was “our song” with an ex-boyfriend/girlfriend. Take some time to think about what you might want to include on your list and we’ll make sure it’s not played!
Amplify Entertainment is the only company in the nation to offer this comprehensive suite of services, allowing you to embrace the evolution of wedding entertainment and helping us to wow your guests!

THE HEY DJ! MOBILE REQUEST SYSTEM
Allow your guests to send song requests to the DJ’s iPad using their mobile devices from the comfort of their dinner table or from the heat of the dance floor. Your guests will be able to send their requests by mobile web app, text message or tweet. Make your event stand out from the rest and give your guests the power of the mobile request! Don’t worry, this isn’t a jukebox. If a guest requests a song that is on your do-not-play list or is otherwise inappropriate for your event, it won’t get played.

MONOGRAM LIGHTING
See your name in lights with Amplify Entertainment’s Custom Monogram Lighting package. Project a beautiful custom design onto the dance floor or on a wall. Since each monogram is designed by us from scratch, your options are only limited by your imagination. It’s just one more personal touch that will ensure your wedding is unique to you and your personality.
UPLIGHTING
Transform any space with stunning ambient lighting with our uplighting package. To take it a step further, we'll recommend a color that matches or complements your design and layout. We even have the ability to capture a custom color from a real physical object (like a flower or fabric) using the lens on our iPad, and then program that exact color into each light.

Outdated uplighting set-ups use old technology and incandescent light bulbs that suck energy and get really hot. These lights can burn curious children when they touch it or even fall and actually present a fire hazard! Our lights use much less energy and are cool to the touch, even after a five-hour reception.

STORY OF US
Why settle for a typical slideshow of photos when you can display them in a stunning, HD animated video? If your venue doesn’t have a digital projector we'll provide one, in widescreen HD. Or, if you prefer instead, we’ll create a video for you after the wedding using photos from your wedding. When you book the “Story of Us,” Amplify Entertainment will create your custom animated video with your choice of 40-100 images from your collection of memories. We’ll also provide you with an HD file of the video that uses music from your wedding, so you can share it privately on YouTube or Facebook later.
KIDSTATION

Why should adults have all of the fun? Want to give the kids something to do so their parents can sit back and enjoy the reception? Check out Amplify Entertainment’s KidStation, which uses a widescreen HD digital projector to offer an all-in-one kids entertainment system that includes movies and cartoons, Nintendo Wii U games, kids music and/or sing-alongs/karaoke. We’ll assign a KidStation attendant to watch over the KidStation at all times and assist with changing between games, movies, music, etc. Even your younger guests should get to experience the evolution of wedding entertainment.
SAMPLE WEDDING DAY TIMELINE
CEREMONY • RECEPTION (6 HOURS)

Wedding receptions come in many shapes and sizes – and that’s awesome! You’re preparing for your big day, not anyone else’s, so you get to do things your way! You’re not alone in this quest, though. We’ll make suggestions and recommendations based on experience that can help guide you along each step of the timeline planning process. During your final review meeting with your DJ (typically the week before the wedding), you’ll be able to walk through your completed Wedding Reception Planner and Wedding Ceremony Planner, including the timeline, with your DJ. This will ensure there is a mutual understanding of what will take place and allows you to fill in any gaps that may still be pending. By the end of the meeting, you’ll have peace of mind knowing that you can sit back and enjoy your wedding while we make it all come together. Below is a sample timeline for a typical wedding day. Feel free to use the timeline below as is, or revise it to make it your own.

4:00 p.m. - Wedding Prelude Music as Guests Arrive
4:30 p.m. - Wedding Ceremony
5:00 p.m. - Photos/Cocktail Hour
5:45 p.m. - Wedding Party Arrival/Introductions
5:50 p.m. - First Dance
5:55 p.m. - Father-Bride Dance
6:00 p.m. - Mother-Groom Dance
6:05 p.m. - Blessing on the Food
6:10 p.m. - Dinner is Served
7:10 p.m. - Toasts
7:20 p.m. - Cake Cutting
7:35 p.m. - Generations Dance
7:45 p.m. - Dancing Begins
8:15 p.m. - Garter Retrieval/Toss
8:20 p.m. - Bouquet Toss
9:35 p.m. - Last Dance(s)
9:45 p.m. - Send-Off
10:00 p.m. - Reception Officially Ends
Remember, this is just one example of how a typical wedding day timeline might progress. It has been proven to work very well. However, feel free to deviate from this timeline as much as you would like. The key is to break up dancing as little as possible. Try not to spread things out too much and keep two portions of the evening clearly divided: the more formal portion (introductions, formal dances, dinner, toasts, cake cutting, etc.) and the less formal portion (mostly dancing, but can also include the garter/bouquet tosses). It’s best to have a formal timeline written out as you go into your wedding day, but it’s also important to know that events often don’t always fall exactly on the time they’re listed, and that’s okay. Whether dinner is slightly delayed or pictures are taking longer than expected, we’ll adjust accordingly and make sure a smooth transition happens no matter what. Not sure how you want to arrange your timeline or have additional questions? We can help make suggestions and guide you along the way. Now, are you ready to start planning the entertainment for the most memorable evening of your life? Let’s do it!