

THE SIDEKICKS

www.thesidekicks.co.uk 07971 542112 scgeraghty@hotmail.com

In response to client's requests, and to ensure the smooth running of your event, you are encouraged to read the following closely in advance, particularly if your venue is not usually set up for live bands.

These notes act as a Ryder for any contracted event.

We work without an agent to keep costs down, the music and the quality is exactly the same at a 20% cheaper price.

The flipside of this is that we do have to address some areas that may appear to paint a picture of hazards and problems. We have to mention these so that all parties know what to do in the event of any unforeseen occurrences.

A few things to consider on your booking

- If your event is a wedding we recommend nomination of a responsible person to be our liaison on the day, so we aren't seeking you out unnecessarily while you're celebrating with family and friends.
- Our priorities are: to get in and out easily, have a practical space to work in, have somewhere to change clothes and relax when not busy, and ensure the safety and security of our equipment.

Getting in and out. We need:

- Accurate address and postcode of venue, and/or additional instructions if the venue is in a field or not at a listed address.
- Access to the 'stage/playing' area to load and unload equipment, and somewhere safe to leave the vehicle/s for the duration of the event

The Stage The stage area must be:

- As solid, level, and slip resistant as possible.
- Ideally a minimum of 10ft deep, and 10ft wide.
- There should be no danger of water, heat, wind or other elemental conditions that may cause damage to our equipment. If there are safety considerations that develop during a performance, these must be addressed before any continuation.
- If the event is staged outdoors: There must be adequate protection and no danger presented to ourselves from rain to the electrical supply.

Power. We need:

- Two separate 13amp 230v sockets on or near the stage area.
- If there are generators we need to know they are safe, and installed by a qualified electrician. An irregular supply can lead to shocks, or surges, which can be hazardous to the musicians and the equipment (and your guests).

Lights.

- We can supply a small lighting rig, adequate for the band area if required.

Dress code

- Is it a smart, casual or tee shirt & jeans affair? Let us know!
- We need: A private 'area' to change clothes (Not a public toilet). We do not expect a dressing room and jacuzzi, we will work with what is available.

Timings We need:

- An hour minimum from arrival at the stage to set-up.
- Getting out also takes approximately an hour from finishing if routes out are clear.
- Ideally we need 15 minutes or so to sound check when we are fully set up. This is so that sound levels are appropriate to the size of the room, and ensures all equipment and electrics are working properly. If this clashes with people eating, making speeches etc. we are prepared to play without a full sound check, but this will affect the initial sound balance. We would then endeavour to fix levels while we play.

Waiting time

We have had to consider this due to past experiences.

We are more than happy to work with you to help us fit in with your plans.

We consider an arrival two and a half hours prior to beginning, to be adequate time to set up and play.

We charge £50 per hour waiting time if we are required to arrive before this.

For example: If you want us to set up for an event that begins at 9 pm we will plan to arrive at 6:30pm. If we set up for 12 noon for an 8:30pm start there will be an additional 6-hour waiting charge.

This is standard industry practise.

In between music

It is possible to play you or your guest's background music through our PA via an I-pod or MP3 player.

The PA can be left on up to half an hour after the live music finishes if required. At which point it will be packed up. If further music is required please discuss your needs with us, we may be able to arrange a separate PA hire.

Feed the band?

It's a question that's been asked by many a client: Do we have to feed the band, what do we feed them and why should we feed them? We understand the band, client and caterers point of view. Some bands ask for food to be provided by the client as part of their Ryder whilst many bands are content with the evening buffet. So what's the etiquette you may ask?

It's generally accepted that the client provides the band with a hot meal prior to or halfway through the gig. The caterer will probably be more than familiar with the situation and often offer a cheaper solution for 'suppliers meals'. After all, the band doesn't expect a fine cut of medium-rare fillet steak, just a hot meal to keep them going.

We do have a vegetarian in our band, and while we try and tempt him to eat hog roast he stubbornly refuses to do so.

From the bands point of view, they'll often depart for the gig at around 3pm and find themselves on the road all day. An hour or so waiting for the speeches to finish, another hour setting up and before you know it, it's 8pm and there is a very hungry group of musicians. The last thing a band wants at this point is to leave the venue in search of food.

FAQ

Weddings:

The First Dance? What do you really want to hear? We have an increasing selection of songs and suggestions that may be suitable. Please liaise with us on this. We will make every effort to offer a good rendition of a song you really want to hear. However, if the chosen song proves impossible to recreate, we recommend you use a pre-recorded version.

Musical content:

We have an extensive range of music and play many styles. To ensure we pick the right mix for your event, we would need to discuss this with you.

If you have an event that may be punctuated by announcements/speeches/raffles/auctions etc. we would develop an agreed running order.

Security, safety, responsibilities, damage etc.

- We would respectfully ask you to keep an eye on all your guests big or small. This may include pacifying guests who may have had a lot to drink. We also insist that small children are adequately supervised so they are not at any risk when we bring heavy equipment through a room. Children seem to love the novelty of musical instruments turning up, and we enjoy chatting to them, love them dancing and having fun, but we worry if we can't see what's happening underneath amps and cases etc.
- Security of our equipment during the event is the responsibility of the client. The use of our equipment is by agreement with the musician/s in question only. We ask our clients or their chosen liaison to monitor guests and discourage spontaneous performances or help-yourself drummers etc.
- We have had guests damage equipment in the past, and any such occurrence can cause problems for all concerned.

Late running

Events may sometimes run late for a variety of reasons. If the band starts late they will take a shortened break between sets to cover any loss of time to a minimum of 5 minutes break. We will still work to the previously agreed finish time unless there is a mutually agreed alteration on the night. Therefore excessive late running may result in a shortened first or second set.

Curtailment of performance:

A performance may stop for the following reasons without liability to the band:

- If an official representative of the police, or venue management with appropriate authority instructs the band to stop.
- If any of our band members are physically assaulted threatened or otherwise molested.
- If there is evidence of electric shock or perceived danger of electric shock or fire risk due to an untrustworthy or unfit power supply.

One last thing, payments.

- We calculate our price on two sets of one hour. With a short break between and a ten-minute encore if requested.
- Additional time can be negotiated prior to, and during an event.
- We appreciate your making arrangements for payment on the day to the agreed sum and format.
- In some cases we may ask for a deposit.
- In others there may be a contract that specifies details.
- We suggest a nominated paymaster on the day.
- If your event is cancelled within one month of the proposed date a standard 50% fee will be charged.

(This has only happened once in ten years, we made every effort to fill the date with an alternative, but bookings are usually taken months in advance.)

We hope things don't appear too daunting from the above. We always adopt the approach that everything is possible, and much of the above represents a 'what-if?' situation. We mention these points to ensure that key things go smoothly and that any potential difficulties are flagged up well in advance.

Best wishes
The Sidekicks

These notes act as a Ryder for any contracted event.