

BOOKING GUIDE

TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION

We make a point of including these expenses in all our prices so there's no extras to worry about once you've booked the band. We handle the booking of the accommodation and parking of the band + engineers too, so that's another weight off your shoulders.

If you are near to London and you don't think the band need accommodation – then it is unlikely to be in the cost, we say it's included, so that if for whatever reason someone needs it, you know the cost will fall on us.

SONG REQUESTS

INCLUDED:

Showbands – 1 x First Dance + 1 x Special Request

Roaming – 1 x Pre-learned special request + multiple spontaneous requests

DJ Live – 1 x First Dance + 1 x Special Request

String Quartet – 1 x Processional + 1 x Special Request

For wedding couples, we allow you to choose pretty much any first dance song... EVER for the band to learn and perform live. We came close to having to refuse one couple's choice once because it was in Swahili, but we managed it anyway! In addition to that we allow one extra special request song included in the package. So, if there's a specific song that really brings back memories, then we will arrange and perform that for you too.

For the remainder of the band's set, we will send you a set list form, which we have attached for your reference. The spaces you need to fill in give us more than enough information to create a bespoke set list for you. So once you've filled it in, trust us, we have everything we need to put together an amazing set list, that not only will get the crowd going, but will also incorporate our own knowledge into how to keep the flow right for the night and in a way that is comfortable for the singers and performers. After all, we've seen over a long period of time what works and what jars!



FOOD & GREEN ROOM

It's important that the band have a warm separate space from the guests to get ready for their performance, with a table + chairs. Once we were put in a flooded tent with holes in during a storm, and you can only imagine the effect it had on our presentation and performance on the night, never again!

When we're planning the event together, we will send you dietaries over for the team which you can forward to caterers. If the band are on site across 2 mealtimes, they may require lunch. I.e., if a duo performs at the ceremony, then in the evening, they'd need lunch and dinner. If for whatever reason you are unable to feed the band a hot meal, then you can simply use our buyout option of £25 + VAT pp. In city centres, where we have downtime between sound check and performing this can occasionally be preferable for us.

ARRIVAL TIMES AND ROOM TURNAROUNDS

We're big believers in the set up being calm and careful, so where we can take extra time to set up, we prefer it. If your guests are entering the room at 3pm and will be in there all night, we usually bring the sound and lighting equipment around 2 hours prior so that it's in place beforehand. The inclusive prices allow for the band to arrive at 5pm for sound check. Theoretically at that point the sound equipment is already in place which means that we can set any sized band up within around 1 hour. The sound check itself (the noisy bit), can take between 10 and 20 minutes, depending on how difficult the acoustic is.

Sometimes, due to the layout of the venue, our clients prefer for sound check to be completed ahead of the guest's arrival and therefore we need to call certain members of the band early. If that's the case for you, just ask us to quote for an early arrival. We don't need the entire band for sound check, which helps to cut the cost of the early call, but for those who do come earlier in the day we need to factor in their extra hours. When asking us to quote for this, make sure you give us the clearance time (when we need to be out of your way), and we'll make the judgement on what time the band members' call needs to be.

For room turnarounds (you'll know if this applies to you!), usually venues allow for 90 mins between dinner and dancing. To be completely transparent, with the levels of technical requirements our bands have, this is the absolute bare minimum time we can work with, and that is for a 9 piece or smaller. We are often also hamstrung by guests leaving the space slowly and even the venue taking time to clear space for us. For this reason, we may need to quote for an extra crew member to speed things up, or an extra 2 if the turnaround is needed in even less time. Like with everything we do, we'd rather you were able to still get the full experience rather than something we've rushed together.

SOUND LIMITERS

If your venue has a power cutting sound limiter, a cheap system that we will be forced to use, or a limit below 90db, it is possible we won't be able to make it work. We have worked under all of the above conditions before, but it's important to know that when venues have these heavy restrictions in place, you won't be able to have the band at full throttle. Some venues even ask us not to play any songs that 'might encourage people to sing-along'!!!

We've noticed a lot of venues with sound limiters are guilty of gas-lighting their clients with so-called 'state of the art' systems. If that's the case with your venue, we recommend you send over their specifications to us before booking and we can talk about adaptations we can make to make it work. The last thing we'd want you to do is book an 12 piece band only to find out further down the line the venue can't accommodate us.



PLAYLIST VS DJ?

Simply, if you have more than an hour of party time where the band isn't playing we hugely recommend a DJ, and would recommend against having a long playlist. A lot of our clients ask us what happens before/between/after the band's live set. Of course, we wouldn't leave the room dead in these periods – so within the band packages we leave the lights running and put a playlist on at good volume to dance to. The playlists we use are put together by us on Spotify, and purposely avoid having cross-over with the band's music. The playlists are set to a 12 second cross-fade so again to avoid big silences. For some people this is an ideal option – you may only have 3 hours put aside for the evening party, during which the band is already playing for 2 hours, plus some time needs to be spent serving evening food – so what's the harm in having a playlist filling the gaps.

Sometimes, however, having a person mixing tracks can be an absolute necessity for the flow of the party. If you're evening party is kicking off at 7pm and finishing at 1am, it is going to be very difficult to hold your guests attention for an additional 4 hours using only a playlist.



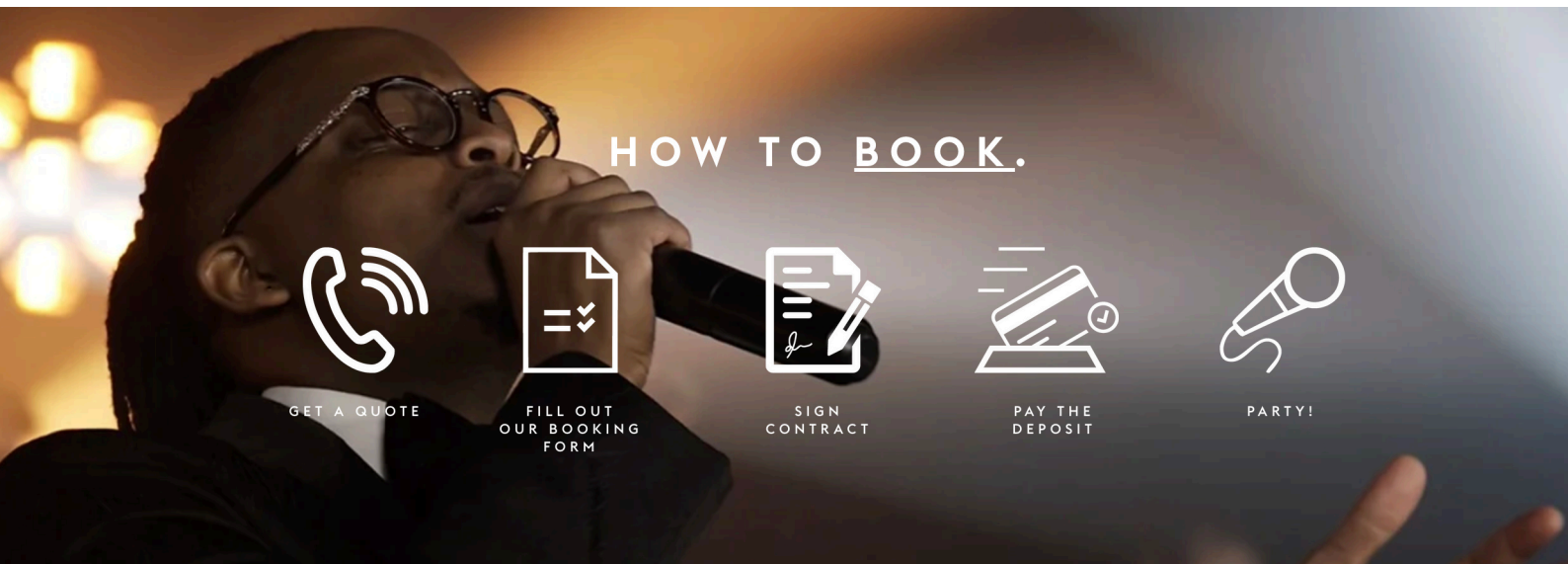
Having a live DJ at a party can offer several benefits over just playing a pre-made playlist. Here are some of them:

- 1. Personalisation:** A live DJ can read the crowd and tailor the music to the energy and mood of the partygoers. They can also take requests and play songs that are meaningful or nostalgic to certain guests.
- 2. Flexibility:** A DJ can adjust the music on the fly to accommodate changes in the party atmosphere, such as transitioning to slower or faster songs, changing the genre or even extending the party a bit longer.
- 3. Mixing:** A DJ can use their skills to create seamless transitions between songs, which can keep the energy high and dance floor full.
- 4. Entertainment value:** A DJ can also add an element of entertainment to the party, by engaging with the crowd, making announcements or even doing some live scratching.

FINALISING THE BOOKING

When you've decided what lineups you want for your event, then just let us know. You'll be asked to summarise everything you want within our booking form, where the total cost will be clarified. We then use the details to put together a contract which we will send alongside a deposit for the invoice. When you're happy with everything, sign the contract and pay the deposit and your booking will be fully confirmed.

Only once the contract is signed AND we have received the deposit are we able to begin booking musicians to fill the slots. We try to respect our performer's need to work regularly by not asking them to 'pencil' dates. We can check their availability for you, but the individuals will only be sent confirmation of a booking once it is confirmed our end. We believe strongly that if we don't mess people around, it's a lot less likely that they'll mess us around, and reliability is something we hold very valuable.



WHAT NEXT?

Some of you may have booked us in a hurry - in that case you'll hear from us very soon! Those of you on the other end of the spectrum that book us 2 years in advance, please reach out as and when you want, and we'll be very happy to answer any questions you may have about how we'll slot into your event. If you're keen and want the admin done early, that may well suit us as well, just know that if you don't hear from us in the long layover between booking and a few months before the event - fear not, your booking is safe! We are that we honoured all 158 postponements that were requested due to covid, and as such have NEVER had to let a client down!

What we'll need from you:

- **Music choices.** Including your special request, we'll talk a bit about this too verbally, to map out the night, we like to get a good sense of you and your guests to make sure we nail this all important part!
- **Information on the performance area.** We need to make sure we have enough space to perform. Power requirements and figure out stage requirements if applicable.
- **Check the sound limit.** Hopefully there isn't one, but if there is we need to know the limit and how it's enforced.
- **Information about the venue.** Where our break-out room is to chill and store instruments + parking and loading information.
- **Dress code.** Let us know if there's a dress code you'd like us to follow.
- **Schedule.** This is the most important bit, from both a logistical side, and from the perspective of getting the flow right in your party. We really recommend involving us in the planning of the schedule, because we have some great nuggets of advice here.
- **Contact for the day.** i.e. your planner or organiser, in case we need to reach someone without disturbing you.
- **Add ons.** Remember, we offer a lot of entertainment options and upgrade, from bespoke lighting and staging, to jazz trios/dinner roaming, if you fancy adding something to the booking, we can easily quote and amend your contract for you.

TECHNICAL HIRE

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Needless to say, when hiring a band for an event, there will need to be good sound and lighting to compliment the band's performance. Unless you have requested otherwise, we always include the absolute necessities within our quotes.

SOUND

From a sound perspective the decision is relatively straightforward - all the microphones/monitors/mixers we need to perform to a high standard are non-negotiable, as is our use of a sound engineer. If you have a particularly high guest count, (over 250), a very large room or an odd shaped space then we may need to consider upgrading the speakers or adding in what we call 'delays' which are small speakers dotted around the room to help spread the sound. If these are needed then simply ask and we can send a quote.

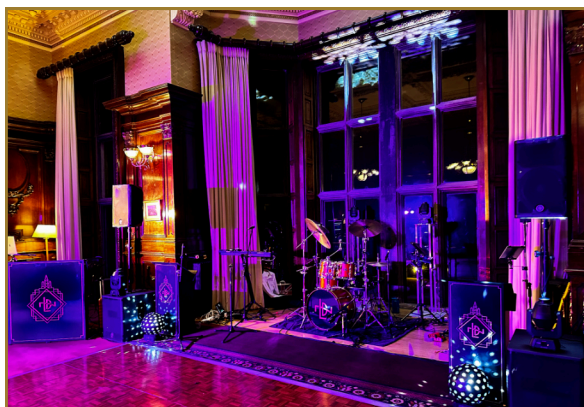
AESTHETICS

Lighting and staging can play a huge role in the overall performance visuals of your event. We include a basic but slick design in our initial quote. For many of our clients, the standard tech package covers everything needed. When we provide the standard package without tying into pre-existing event design (pictured bottom left) we endeavour to make the space look as good as possible using our automated lighting (no engineer). Our premium package, however, takes our performance to the next level. Not only can upgraded staging and lighting significantly elevate the look of the room, but having a lighting engineer means that lights can strobe, flare and illuminate in time to our performance. The two-tier stage gives the band the status lift and visibility to help them really connect with the crowd. We can also customise the stage carpeting and stage fronts to complement colour schemes or venue decor.

PREMIUM PACKAGE

Minimum 4 hours needed to set up

- 1 Sound Engineer, 1 Lighting Engineer + crew
- 8 Moving Heads (these are lights that move about)
- Front Wash (so you can see our faces!)
- 4 Sunstrips + 2 Portman lights (we call this our eye-candy - they're placed behind the band so that when photos are taken towards the stage they always look awesome!)
- Haze (if permitted by the venue)
- Two tiered stage up to 6x4m in black with gold trim, or white carpeted.
- 1 Full Front of House sound system, including subs, full array of microphones, digital mixing desk, in-ear monitoring and stands.



STANDARD PACKAGE

Minimum 2 hours needed to set up

- 1 Sound Engineer - they will be setting up the band's equipment and also ensuring the levels are correct so the band sound great.
- 4 Moving Heads (moving lights, connected together on an automatic setting so that they all dance about in sync)
- 2 T-Bars (these flood the space with colour to add atmosphere)
- 2 Additional disco lighting fixtures (i.e. the disco balls pictured)
- Haze if permitted by the venue (this package looks particularly nice when we add haze to the equation)
- 1 Full Front of House sound system, including subs, full array of microphones, digital mixing desk, in-ear monitoring and stands.

GO BESPOKE

Whilst we offer the 2 straightforward package options for tech we also are delighted to offer fully bespoke design to compliment our music. It may be that your overall event design requires us to slot in with a specific look, or you just want to go huge with the vision and take a version of our premium package and upgrade it to really go BIG! Be it mirrored staging, lighting rigs in the ceiling, an all white aesthetic, or lights on podiums around the room, there is usually an answer to most requests and using our extensive expertise in the industry we can help you make your vision a beautiful reality. If you want to go bespoke, simply request a call with our AV team to start to put these ideas in motion. We can give you an advanced quote and also look into any restrictions that may need to be overcome in order to make it happen. When we're putting together unique designs we do need time on the day or before the day to execute them to the highest standard, so it's worth bearing in mind not all bespoke designs can be achieved in a short room turnaround!



ADD-ONS

We are able to offer certain elements on an itemised basis. If you love one of our packages but want to add certain elements, or even if you have all the technical elements sorted but would like us to provide a few extras - then we can certainly help out. It's worth noting that some of our itemised elements are just that, you can just add the items on, however certain elements will require additional transport, extra crew and/or engineers. This is the perfect way to build a package that is perfectly suited to you.

Here are some (but not all the options)

UPLIGHTS - (In boxes of 8) - **£300 inc VAT per box**. If your venue comes as a bit of a blank canvas, uplights are a brilliant addition to accentuate the space and add colour, warmth and atmosphere to the room.

LIGHTING ENGINEER - **£P.O.A.** This is included in our Premium package, but if you have our standard package, it really enhances the vibe to have somebody manually operating the lights to sync with the music, and adding a controlled design. N.b Some of our lighting add-ons also require manual operation to work.

DJ STAGE/ DRUMS STAGE - **£300 inc VAT**. Adds status and grandeur to the performance without breaking the bank.

6- 9 PC BAND STAGE - **£940 inc VAT**. We can provide staging in most shapes and sizes.

10 - 15 PC BAND STAGE - **£P.O.A**

PORTMAN LIGHTS x 2 - (requires lighting engineer) - **£300 inc VAT per box**. These are the beautiful hexagonal lights you'll see in many of our promo videos.

SUNSTRIPS x 4 - (looks better with lighting engineer) - **£300 inc VAT**

DELAY SPEAKERS - **£200 inc VAT** - for large rooms

MOVING HEADS x 4 - (on plinths around the room) - **£350 inc VAT**

TABLE PINSPOTS - **£60 inc VAT per table**

MICROPHONE FOR SPEECHES - **£75 inc VAT**

CUSTOM DJ BOOTH WITH MONOGRAM - **£120 inc VAT** - (not including monogram design)

