

Wedding Music Charleston Set Up Requirements

WHAT WE WILL NEED FOR DJ PERFORMANCE EQUIPMENT SET UP

- Solid and level floor to set up on- should not be grass or dirt. 10'x12' minimum for a DJ set up. For very small groups (only 25-35 guests in a small area) I can set up one speaker and a smaller table only requiring 8'x 10'. The larger the room and the greater the number of guests will require more powerful PA which requires more set up space. (Lighting stand by itself takes approx 3'x3' footprint.)
- Set up floor cannot be unstable or bouncy (like a dance floor on grass) or guests can knock over speakers when they begin dancing.
- We generally need a roof over our head if the performance is after dark or longer than 2 hours. **If there is a possibility of rain we will need walls on the tent around our location because rain often blows in from the side quite easily.**
- Direct hot sun can damage equipment so please understand that electronic gear needs protection from direct sun on days expected to have outside temps over 85 degrees. In the direct sun temps can rise on black speakers and overheat the power circuit inside, shutting down the speakers and possibly causing irreversible damage.
- Cold temperatures can also damage equipment and cause DJs of musicians to have difficulty performing to their full potential.
- We need plenty of power for music equipment. **A dedicated 20A 110V circuit is often needed for a DJ set up** producing sound for more than 110 guests. A dedicated 15A circuit may suffice for smaller groups. We cannot share power with other lighting or equipment from our breaker circuit as it may cause the sound system to distort or trip breakers.
- We cannot pull power over extended distances without VERY heavy cables. 25' Extension cords are the maximum that can be attempted without an in-depth review of the circumstances. Even then a very heavy-duty cable (10-12 gage) is needed due the large amount of current being drawn to power all of the equipment. Long extension cords can, and often will make the music sound terrible (distortion, noise, buzzing etc) and may even cause damage to equipment.

I am happy to assist with planning and chat with your venue and/or electrician if needed. Better to plan in advance than to have your lovely event ruined by bad sound quality.

WHAT WE WILL NEED FOR LIVE BAND PERFORMANCES

Most of the basic requirements are similar for bands and DJs with a few exceptions. Critical needs for live music are as follows:

- Solid and level floor to set up on- cannot be grass or dirt. There are many reasons for this, but the primary reason is that we have expensive gear that will be on the floor (foot switches, amplifiers, etc) and everything has to be able to sit level for performance.
- A 240 sq ft stage or 10'x24' minimum for the 4-pc band. Must be a minimum of 10' deep for drums, but 12' deep is preferable. A raised stage is also preferable, but we can be on ground level if the floor is very solid. (Guests often bounce when dancing and this can knock over gear at times) A 3 pc group will require at least 150 sq ft of space on the stage and as always the minimum front to back is 10' so drums have room with a musician standing in front. (See our stage layout sheet)
- If the venue is family owned property you may find that you can build a stage/deck on the property for less than renting one. Please discuss your plans or ideas with Michael prior to building a stage to ensure that there is no confusion about needs. The stage must be very solid and not bouncy or flexible.
- We need plenty of power for the band. We will be pulling approx 4,000 - 5,000 watts (including lights and each musician's amplifier as well as the PA) 2 dedicated 20A 110V circuits are best, 1 can suffice if needed but it may be touchy. Each band member uses powerful amplifiers as well as stage monitors. Each uses current (Amperage) and small circuits with small breakers will not work well.
- We cannot pull power over more than 25' without VERY heavy cables. An in-depth review of the layout and power supply are always needed for live music performances due to the power necessary for live music. Powering a full band requires some planning. I am happy to assist with this and chat with your venue and/or electrician if needed.

Thank you for your understanding. We look forward to working with you!
Michael D Peifer- Owner 843-442-2525
weddingmusiccharleston@gmail.com