

Wedding Receptions That Rock: Duelling Pianos Plus DJ Entertainment FAQ



By Dave Caruso

Wedding bands have been commonplace wedding reception entertainment since the dawn of time. For the last several decades, couples could choose between a band and a DJ. But today, discriminating brides and grooms across the country are choosing **Duelling Pianos** because they want a reception party that's fresh, fun, interactive, memorable and affordable.

Your entertainment decision doesn't have to be complicated. Finding a duelling pianos company that's perfect for your reception is easy, once you know all the answers.

1. **What is "duelling pianos?"** Duelling pianos is a high-energy entertainment concept that's unique, fun and flexible. It's engaging and interactive, and when it's done right, the spotlight is on you and your guests, not the entertainers.
2. **Is duelling pianos the right entertainment for our wedding reception?** A duelling pianos team with the right wedding reception experience and qualifications can deliver a show with something for everyone – event coordination, a master of ceremonies, music by request, comedy, crowd participation, sing-along, dancing, and even people-watching. And for the finale: a professional DJ service.
3. **Is duelling pianos right for our guest list?** In addition to thousands of wedding reception guests, we've performed our duelling pianos and DJ show for college students, surgeons, country club members, convention and conference attendees, kids, parents, rally participants, nutritionists, corporate employees, retirees, and even morticians. Everyone responds enthusiastically to the energy, musical variety and outrageous fun of duelling pianos entertainment.
4. **What if most of our guests have never seen a duelling pianos show before?** From the first note to the very last, the job of your duelling pianos team is to engage your guests and dial in whatever creates the biggest and most favorable response. Rather than waiting to see how excited your guests can become on their own schedule, your team should act as entertainment Cruise Directors, demonstrating the possible music and fun destinations and then transitioning everyone there skillfully and gracefully.
5. **How will our guests know what to do?** Energizing, motivational and often hilarious cues should be built right into the show, so your guests will feel involved no matter where the party takes them.
6. **What if our guests would rather dance than sit and watch a show?** Your guests can participate with their eyes, ears and voices from their seats, with their legs and feet from the dance floor or if they're more daring, they can be invited up in front of the stage for something spontaneous and crazy.

7. **How can I determine whether a particular dueling pianos company is equipped to handle our event coordination from start to finish, including working with our venue manager, photographer and videographer?** Find out how long they've been playing wedding receptions. Check out their experience, qualifications and awards. Find out at which venues they've played. See if they've had Entertainment Director experience at multiple dueling pianos clubs. View their on-line videos. Read their clients' testimonials. Be sure they're prepared to contact your venue manager in advance of your reception.
 8. **What about pricing – doesn't a higher price mean better quality entertainment?** Not necessarily. Many dueling piano companies are actually agent / brokers, middlemen who inflate their prices by as much as 30% just for taking your phone call. They may not be personally delivering your wedding entertainment.
 9. **How can I be sure that everything will happen in the right order and at the right times, and that we'll be able to choose the songs to be played for the grand entrance, cake cutting, bridal dance, etc.?** Ask your dueling team leader for a written entertainment plan that allows you to coordinate and collaborate on all details of your event.
 10. **What about the language rating?** Your duelers should allow you to choose a language rating (G, PG, or R) that's suitable for your guests. A truly talented team doesn't need to "roast" your guests in order to be funny. They can be just as entertaining while making you and your guests look and feel great.
 11. **What will we do during the entertainer's breaks?** Dueling pianos works best when there are no breaks, so the entertainment is non-stop.
 12. **Is there anything else we can do in advance to ensure that our family and friends will have a great time at our dueling pianos wedding reception?** Absolutely! From room layout diagrams to scheduling and song suggestions, ask your dueling team to provide you with a list of tips and ideas.
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Dave Caruso is Entertainment Director for *Piano Wars!*, a Detroit-based, premier dueling pianos company. Known as **The Man of a Thousand Songs**, Dave's 30+ years of wedding entertainment experience make him a unique authority on the subject. During his 11 years and thousands of shows as a dueling pianist all over the country, he's evolved into a master entertainer and his dueling teams have earned top entertainment awards. Find out more at www.PianoWars.com.
