



Specialists in professional live music

Wedding Ceremonies

Drinks Receptions

&

Dining

"Thank you for organising such a wonderful string quartet
... all the guests said how the music
really enhanced the occasion"

DH, Oxon



Specialists in professional live music

Music for Wedding Ceremonies, Drinks Receptions and Dining

Whether you want to walk down the aisle like a royal Princess, entertain your guests at a sparkling drinks reception or dine in style, live music will ensure that everyone remembers your special day.

You can ensure that you hit all the right notes by booking a “Mad Hatter” Band. Music is our business, not our pastime, so although we enjoy our work tremendously, we take it very seriously indeed.

Accomplished professionals

We've been providing quality musical entertainment for all kinds of occasions since 1998. Our small team of professional ensembles and performers has been carefully selected to offer you the best in their particular musical genre.

Our ensembles perform *genuine live* music. They do not use pre-recorded backing tracks, so when you see and hear our musicians play, you are experiencing a unique live performance ... and they are performing *just for you*.

Knowledge and Experience

Founded and run by an experienced classically-trained professional musician*, we are a small business offering a personalised service. Our knowledge and experience helps us to advise our clients on all kinds of issues relating to live music. If you're unsure of the sort of ensemble to choose, which music to play or need advice about the timing of events, we're on hand to help, and are happy to chat through ideas with you. We can even arrange a special piece of music just for you!

Other key points for your peace of mind

- You'll have a written contract covering all aspects of your booking
- Our musicians have public liability insurance through the Musicians Union
- Our musician's electrical equipment is fully tested
- We can supply you or your venue with our written Health and Safety statement on request.



Ensembles details and Demo CDs

This brochure contains brief details about ensembles suitable for playing at your Wedding Ceremony, Drinks Reception and Dinner. Please contact us again if you would like information about our “Party” Bands (Jazz, Dance, Ceilidh, Covers, Soul & bands suitable for general dancing).

Ensembles that can play for your wedding ceremony can also play for your drinks reception and dining. Other ensembles (described below) may not be suitable for playing at your wedding ceremony but would be perfect for playing for your drinks reception and/or during dining - details are shown at the top of each page.

We recommend you listen to all of the tracks on the demo CDs that accompany this brochure. You may have a particular type of ensemble in mind, but you might discover some different options to tempt you! All of our ensembles offer large repertoires and the demo CD can only offer you a “taster” of their work. We can send you full repertoire lists on request.

“Designer” music or special requests

You may dream of making your big entrance to a particular tune, or want to surprise a loved one with a performance of a favourite piece. Dreams can be shattered if the music you want isn’t already arranged and commercially available. We may be able to overcome this because we’ve got years of experience of arranging music for different types of ensemble and can usually write a special arrangement just for you.

We’ll do our best to ensure you have exactly what you want, and can advise you on what will (and won’t) work. This is a very special part of our service and, to our knowledge, is unique to us.

Please note that we need a minimum of six weeks notice for special arrangements.

Do you need advice or more information?

If you have any queries at all, please call us or send us an e-mail. You are also very welcome to visit us if you’d prefer to talk face to face (but we need advance notice of this). Our contact details are shown on the back cover.

We look forward to hearing from you!



Robert Stevens, Founder & Director



*Robert Stevens (aka “The Mad Hatter”) studied at the Royal Manchester and Royal Northern Colleges of Music, where he was awarded the prestigious Hiles Gold Medal for his outstanding contribution to the Symphony and Opera Orchestras. Robert has over 30 years professional playing experience and has performed with many professional orchestras, both a soloist and as an orchestral player . He’s also worked with many jazz bands, big bands and in the musical theatre. He leads several of the ensembles appearing under the Mad Hatter banner , manages bookings for all the groups and arranges all of the special requests.

Mad Hatter Strings

Suitable for Wedding Ceremonies, Drinks Receptions and Dining
Samples on Demo Disk 1 (quartet only)



Playing during wedding photography, Fallowfields Country House Hotel



Playing from the Minstrels' gallery during a wedding ceremony, Weston Manor Hotel

A string ensemble is a perennial favourite for weddings, and Mad Hatter Strings is one of our most popular groups. The classic string group instrumentation is widely known and appreciated, and is ideal for background music. Our String Ensemble is highly skilled and experienced, and is available in various formats, to suit different sized venues (see below).

Mad Hatter Strings have a repertoire that covers classical favourites and popular tunes. Please note that the Quartet has a larger repertoire than the Trio or Duo. However, the trio can fit into restricted spaces more easily (remember that some rooms used for wedding ceremonies can be quite small).

Mad Hatter Strings is available in the following formats

Duo Violin 'Cello

Trio Violin, Viola, 'Cello

Quartet Violin1, Violin2, Viola, 'Cello

This is an acoustic ensemble

Notes

Dress is formal black/dinner jackets

Standard call time is 2, 3 or 4 hours

Indoor & outdoor performances (weather permitting)

Special arrangements available (6 weeks notice required)

Serendipity

Suitable for Wedding Ceremonies,
Drinks Receptions and Dining
Samples on Demo Disk 1



Serendipity is a unique ensemble, and an ideal choice if you are looking for ceremonial or background music with a real difference. Their entertaining repertoire readily switches from romantic classics through to cool Latin vibes and popular tunes, so they offer something for everyone. Because they all switch instruments during their performances, you'll hear a wide variety of sounds too, keeping you entertained and creating a wonderful background to your wedding day.

Chris, Rey and Keith all have a huge amount of professional experience, performing as individuals with orchestras, ensembles and artistes as diverse as the London Symphony Orchestra, the Pavlova Wind Quintet, Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber and Madonna.

Serendipity is available in 2 formats

Trio

Chris - Flute & recorders

Rey - Steel-string and Classical guitar

Keith - Hand percussion - Latin

American/African and renaissance

European percussion instruments
(including congas, bongos, side drum,
tambourine & assorted shakers!)

Duo

Chris - Flute & recorders

Rey - Steel-string & Classical guitar

Serendipity supply their own subtle amplification for the guitar and flute. They can also play acoustically if required. This is particularly suitable for smaller indoor venues, or if they are playing from a minstrels' gallery. If you want Serendipity to play acoustically please discuss it with us in advance.

At a concert performance in Oxford



The duo playing during wedding photography at Weston Manor
(with a young fan!)

Notes

Dress is smart casual

Special arrangements available (6 weeks notice required please)

Standard call time of 2 or 3 hours

Indoor & outdoor performances (weather permitting)

Precious Mettles

Suitable for Wedding Ceremonies,
Drinks Receptions and Dining
Samples on Demo Disk 1



Playing a bride & groom back up the aisle,
The Tythe Barn

Children like our music too!
Performing during a wedding drinks
reception at The Bay Tree Hotel, Burford

Precious Mettles is a rare ensemble that offers you a world of professional experience combined with a rich and varied repertoire that ranges from Tudor and classical favourites through to popular tunes and jazz. One of our most popular groups, their music will thrill you and impress your guests, creating an atmosphere that matches any occasion. Their broad repertoire, flexible instrumentation and ability to switch musical styles means that they can almost be viewed as several bands rolled into one. They have performed at many wedding ceremonies (both civil and religious) and are well versed in the procedures and timings required. They are also very experienced at playing for drinks receptions, during wedding photography and dining/banquets.

Precious Mettles line up

Trumpet

Clarinet/Alto saxophone/flute

Trombone

Tuba/Keyboard/Keyboard-bass (note keyboard can reproduce a “church organ” sound if required)

With a tuba, this is an acoustic ensemble

Notes

Dress is smart casual (black shirts & trousers), black dinner jackets or white tuxedo as required

Standard performance times are 2 or 3 hours

Indoor and outdoor performances (weather permitting)

Special arrangements available (6 weeks notice required)

Discount available if booked as part of Mad Hatter Band wedding package

Bridesmaids dance to the band, reception at The Tithe Barn, Aynho



Rosetta

Suitable for Wedding Ceremonies,
Drinks Receptions and Dining
Samples on Demo Disk 1



Rosetta playing during a wedding ceremony,
Notley Tithe Barn



Rosetta

The beautiful sound of Rosetta is a wonderfully romantic accompaniment to wedding ceremonies and dining. Layla “doubles” instruments during the performance, so audiences experience a range of different sounds and moods, and the blend of guitar with either Celtic harp, flute or recorder creates a magical atmosphere, particularly suitable for historic surroundings or beautiful gardens

Rosetta’s repertoire covers traditional Scottish, Irish and Welsh melodies, Renaissance, Baroque and Classical favourites, and some Latin-American folk tunes.

Alison is experienced in the ancient tradition of “Circle Dancing”, leading the dances if required and playing music to accompany the dances. Circle Dancing draws upon the rich and diverse dances of many countries and is used to help celebrate special occasions (ideal for a wedding!). It can be as gentle or as energetic as required, and involves all ages and abilities. No dance partners are required! Please ask for more information if you are interested in this. Please note that this isn’t automatically included in Rosetta’s performance so we need advance notice if you would like to include circle dancing as part of your wedding celebrations.

Rosetta line up
Alison - classical guitar
Layla - Celtic harp, flute & treble recorder

Notes
Dress is long black dresses with burgundy jackets
Standard call time is up to 3 hours

Jazz Society

Suitable for Drinks Receptions and Dining Samples on Demo Disk 2



Performing in The Georgian Room, Weston Manor Hotel

Jazz Society is led by female vocalist/pianist Alison. They have an elegant and sophisticated performance style, performing classic jazz, swing and popular tunes. Band leader/singer Alison studied at the Guildhall School of Music, and has taken part in many UK and international jazz festivals, receiving critical acclaim for her performances.

They are available as a duo, trio or quartet.

Jazz Society's play list is available on request or from our website.

Jazz Society is available in the following formats

Duo: Vocals/piano & jazz guitar

Quartet: Vocals/piano, jazz guitar, saxophone & double-bass

Notes

Standard band call time is 3 hours

Dress code is smart casual unless otherwise requested



Kaycee Inc.

Suitable for Drinks Receptions and Dining
Samples on Demo Disk 2



Playing at Le Manor aux Quat Saisons



Trying to keep cool at a wedding reception
in the gardens of The Bay Tree Hotel, Burford

Kaycee Inc. has a fresh contemporary feel and offers a large play list of jazz standards and styles including swing, funk, bop, blues and Latin. They are an ideal choice if you're looking for cool and stylish jazz. Ewen and his team have considerable experience in performing at jazz clubs and festivals around the UK and can switch to pure jazz if required.

The band is available as a duo or trio, and is only amplified to match the saxophone, so will not drown your reception with noise. The group is named after the area in Kansas where Charlie Parker first experienced jazz and was later to start his illustrious career.

Kaycee Inc's play list is available on request or from our website.

Band line up

Duo - saxophone & keyboard

Trio - saxophone, jazz guitar or keyboard, bass guitar or double-bass

Notes

Duo & trio suitable for drinks receptions & dining
Standard band call times - 2 hours for duo;

2 or 3 hours for trio;

Dress code is smart casual



Sweet City

Suitable for Drinks Receptions
and Dining
Samples on Demo Disk 2



Performing at a drinks reception on the lawns of Weston Manor Hotel



Taking a “breather” at the Four Pillars Hotel, Sandford

Let the warm, swinging sounds of Sweet City create a stylish background for your wedding reception or dining. Performing warm, subtle “cocktail” jazz, this ensemble brings a vast range of experience to their performances, offering touches of blues, soul, gospel, funk and (of course) classic jazz and swing. Led by Jillian’s wonderful vocals, they perform a wide range of jazz standards and modern classics, and Rory is the king of “special requests”.

Sweet City is available in a range of formats

Duo	Female vocals & keyboard
Trio	Female vocals, keyboard & double-bass
Quartet	Female vocals, keyboard, saxophone & double-bass

Notes

Dress is smart casual or dinner jackets

Band call time is 2 or 3 hours (2 hours only for the duo)



Canapés

Suitable for Drinks Receptions and Dining
Samples on Demo Disk 3



Performing at the Bicester Jazz Festival

The Canapés Jazz Trio specialize in providing high quality background or “mood” music.

Just like real canapés, their repertoire is packed with morsels of delicious music, designed to appeal to a wide audience and create a happy, relaxed atmosphere.

Martin leads the band from his keyboard and also sings, so you will enjoy a mixture of classic songs and instrumental jazz. The band also perform some of their own original compositions.

The team has huge experience in performing for private and public events and Martin is very adroit at introducing the music and generally communicating with his audience.

Band line up

Keyboard/vocals

Double Bass

Drums

Notes

Dress is smart casual or dinner jackets

Standard performance time is 2 or 3 hours

A band's eye view from The Temple of Concord & Victory, Stowe Gardens (Dining at Dusk, for The National Trust)



Jazz Flavours

**Suitable for Drinks Receptions and Dining
Samples on Demo Disk 3**

Jazz Flavours is an experienced, highly accomplished and flexible ensemble, able to adapt their band format and programme to suit your event.

They focus primarily on swing, jazz and Latin styles, with touches of soul and R&B.



The Jazz Flavours play list is available on request or from our website

Band line up

Trio Keyboards, guitar & saxophone (with male vocals if required)

Quartet Keyboards, guitar, saxophone and female vocalist

Notes

Standard performance time is 3 hours

Dress code - black dinner jackets or smart casual

Soloists & smaller Ensembles

Suitable for Wedding Ceremonies, Drinks Receptions and/or Dining

In addition to our ensembles, we work with a carefully selected team of talented and experienced solo artistes. Solo instruments or small ensembles are a good way to introduce live music to your event, particularly if space is a little tight! Our standard Demo Disks don't include samples of all of our soloists, so if you are interested in a particular type of soloist please contact us to discuss sample tracks.

Solo Piano

Our exceptional pianists offer a huge range of different musical styles. Some specialize in the classical or jazz repertoire, whilst others perform a mixed programme covering almost everything. They are happy to play on your venue's piano (assuming it is in good working order and is regularly tuned) or most can supply their own electric piano if required. Please note that a "real" piano is an acoustic instrument, but the electric piano is not. The electric piano can be used outdoors, weather permitting.

Bright Seraphim Duo (Samples Demo Disk 1)

This duo consists of classical trumpet and keyboard. The trumpet and keyboard perform together for wedding ceremonies, playing music prior to the service, for the entrance of the bride, the signing of the register and the recessional. After the ceremony, the keyboard player will play classical, jazz or popular tunes to entertain your guests during the drinks reception or wedding photography.

Solo saxophone

This is an acoustic instrument and is a good way of getting a "strolling player" moving amongst your guests. The repertoire is jazz only.

Solo guitar

Our guitar soloists can offer you a range of musical styles from classical favourites through to Latin sounds, jazz and popular tunes. The guitar can be played inside or outdoors (weather permitting) and because it is easily transportable, the performer can change position within your venue if required. Depending upon the style of music chosen, the guitar may or may not be acoustic - please discuss with us.

Solo orchestral harp

All our harpists are experienced soloists. Although the repertoire for the orchestral harp may not be as vast nor as flexible as that of the solo piano or guitar, this instrument remains a popular choice for wedding ceremonies and as background music for drinks receptions etc... The orchestral harp is an acoustic instrument and cannot be used outdoors. Please also note whilst it is possible for a harpist to move location during a wedding reception (ie move position after the wedding ceremony), this does take time and they may need assistance.

Thanks from happy clients

Subject: Saturday's wedding

From: "Ann Burgess" <ann@burgess6566.fslife.co.uk>

Date: Tue, 7 Aug 2007 20:12:09 +0100

To: "Rob Stevens [The Mad Hatter Bands]" <rob@themadhatterband.co.uk>

Dear Rob,

I am writing to say how much we enjoyed the music on Saturday at Tracy's wedding. You and your colleagues in the band made our day perfect and everyone thought you were wonderful.

Please extend our grateful thanks

With best wishes

Stephen and Ann Burgess

Subject: Thank you

From: "Jeskings, Sam" <sam.jeskings@macmillan.com>

Date: Wed, 16 Apr 2008 12:18:28 +0100

To: <rob@themadhatterband.co.uk>

Dear Rob

I wanted to drop you a line of thanks for the efforts of Alison and the rest of the band last night. It was a huge success and the music was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. It was just right!

Please let them all know how grateful (and pleased) we all are.

Until the next Macmillan party...

Sam

We would like to thank you and your daughter for the splendid contribution you both made to our daughter Kate's wedding on Sunday.

Your music, played so beautifully and which fitted in so well with the surroundings and Kate's ideas, helped to make the occasion a very successful one. Many people said how lovely the music was.

Rob,

we wanted to say thank you to you & your band for the wonderful music that you played at our wedding. The pieces during the ceremony were perfect. Thanks in particular for your arrangement of 'My Baby Just care for Me'. Lots of our guests commented on how great you were during drinks reception - it was a really uplifting mix of tunes, that helped to really get everyone in the mood! we hope that you did not get damp on from the rain. Thanks again.

Best wishes,

Emily & Paul

Dear Robert,

Just wanted to say thank you for organising such a wonderful string quartet at my wedding (the Tythe Barn, 6th Aug 2005) the ladies played beautifully and all the guests said how their music really enhanced the setting and atmosphere of the occasion. My husband and I only briefly got to say hello and thank you (all at the same time) but I would be grateful if you could again pass on our thanks to Judith and the other 3 ladies.

Thank you for all your assistance in making our wedding truly wonderful. Best wishes

Dawn Harrison (formerly McVeigh!)

Subject: 8th Dec Cripps Barn Thank You
From: T [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, 1 Jan 2008 18:44:38 +0000 (GMT)
To: rob@themadhatterband.co.uk

Hi Rob

Happy New Year!

We just wanted to send you a thank you very much for helping plan the music for our wedding. The string quartet were wonderful, they really created the atmosphere that we were looking for and many people commented on the fantastic music and professionalism.

Please pass on our sincere thank you to them as well and we wish you all a happy and healthy 2008.

Kind regards
Tara and Matt

Hello,

Just wanted to say thank you very much for playing at our wedding--it was a resounding sucess & despite any concerns 'Fly me to the moon' worked wonderfully.

You were great & I know we and all the guests had a fantastic day.

22/02/07

Dear Rob,

We just wanted to thank you and the Mad Hatter Wedding Duo for the fantastic performance at our wedding at Weston Manor on 3rd February. Our guests really enjoyed the music, and were particularly impressed by the The Darkness track - thanks for all your hard work on that. Please pass on our thanks to Richard and Bob.

Cathleen + Peter

The Mad Hatter strings,
Thank you so much for
a fantastic performance on
our wedding day
(friday 29th July - Weston
manor)

Thank You

You created just the right
atmosphere we wanted
and were flexible enough
that you were always
there in the background
for all to enjoy.
We look forward to using
you again in the future.

Just a quick e-mail to say thanks for Sunday evening - I thought you were great and created the perfect atmosphere for the evening reception. I would happily recommend you to any of my friends in need of a jazz band.

I hope it was a good night for you and the staff at Chartridge looked after all your needs.

Thanks once again

Maggie



“... the band were enjoyed by absolutely everyone! We can honestly say that we will be recommending your company to all our family, friends and colleagues”

Brian M, Wilts

“... thank you for organising such a wonderful string quartet ... the ladies played beautifully ... all the guests said how much the music enhanced the setting and the atmosphere of the occasion ...”

Dawn H, Oxon

“Thank you and the Mad Hatter Wedding Duo for a fantastic performance at our wedding ... the guests really enjoyed the music and were particularly impressed by The Darkness track ... thanks for all your hard work on that.”

Cathren & Peter, Oxon

“What a fantastic band! Without exception the band was praised ... I shall recommend them where ever I go”

Susan S, Bucks

“... thank you so much for organising the quartet to play at our wedding party. They were absolutely terrific - everyone was hugely impressed by their music which was just perfect for the age range 3-87yrs!”

Jane Foukes, Oxon

“You were all we hoped you'd be and more ... your demo CD is only a taster! What marvellous musicians you all are! We shall certainly have no hesitation in recommending you to others ...”

Martha & Rob, Oxon

Contact

Robert Stevens, ARNCM, ARMCM

E-mail - wedding@themadhatterband.co.uk

Tel 01869 245357

For a quick & easy quotation visit
<http://www.themadhatterband.co.uk>

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