

Music to your ears

Helpful tips for hiring DJ's

By Alexis Thomas
Senior Editor

When it comes to planning a wedding, music can make or break an evening, Deana Sewell, a UNL senior broadcasting major and local disc jockey said.

Sewell, who works for Complete Music, said that most people don't understand all that there is to consider when deciding what disc jockey or band to hire for a reception.

"Be cautious when hiring a disc jockey," Sewell said. "Find someone flexible and easy to work with. You don't want a disc jockey that is the center of attention."

Once the disc jockey has been selected, the next step is deciding on the kind of music that will be played. Sewell said that it was important, once again, to be flexible.

A planning sheet is given to the bride and groom in advance to find out the general type of music they would like played at the reception. The rest is up to the disc jockey or the band.

"I once had a bride who listed songs 1-131 that she wanted played," she said. "A little bit into the evening, everyone started to leave because they didn't like the music."

Sewell said that once the wedding was over, it's time for the bride and groom to relax and let the DJ take over.

Most disc jockeys in the Lincoln area charge between \$250-\$350 for their services and will add a mileage fee for receptions out of town.

Music played during the wedding ceremony is also essential to the big day. Just ask Tanya Kuphal, a senior dental hygiene major married over Christmas break.

After she said her "I Do's" and began walking down the aisle for the recessional, she heard "I Feel Good" by James Brown instead of the traditional music she was expecting.

"I just laughed," Kuphal said of the surprise that her new brother-in-law planned.

Kuphal and her fiancé picked out the other songs played during the ceremony by visiting Christian bookstores. They also visited Blockbuster Music and listened to albums with classic processional and recessional



Bret Gottschall/DN

wedding music.

Once the music has been chosen, the next step is the selection of the soloist. Generally it is someone who the bride and groom know, such as a family member or friend.

Melissa Giddings, a senior economics major, often is asked to sing at weddings by friends or family. Giddings said that many times people didn't understand the etiquette of asking a soloist to perform at a wedding.

When hiring a soloist, Giddings said it was often appreciated and ex-

pected that the soloist would receive \$30-\$50 for their services and time. This covers the three to five hours spent practicing, travel time, and the actual wedding.

Giddings said that it was important to know the singer's range when selecting the ceremony music. Often, she is given music that is in a man's range and she cannot use it.

It was also important to make sure that the music is acceptable to the church, she said. Some contemporary music is not allowed by many churches in the area.

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