



Hot Press 'Wedding Bands to Want' 2015

Ding dong the bells are going to chime. But what's going to happen afterwards? Have you got a great band organised to play? And a top photographer to take the pics? Planning your big day is a like a military operation. If you want to avoid it being your Waterloo, the message is: start planning now...

As anyone who has ever been to a wedding will testify - the musical entertainment on offer is arguably the single most important element in determining the success of the entire event. In fact, music is now typically featured throughout the whole day of the wedding, during the church service, at the drinks reception and even during the meal. But when the formal ceremonies are dispensed with, the food duly consumed and the speeches done and dusted, everyone wants to get on the dance floor! There is simply nothing to beat a good live wedding band to help send the happy couple and their guests dancing into the night. And since reputation counts for everything in the wedding band business, by their nature, a good wedding band has to be at the top of their game - all of the time. Choose your band carefully and your special day will be the unforgettable experience and special memory that it deserves to be. Here, then, are ten recommendations from Hot Press...



A FEW GOOD MEN

If you want to wow your guests with serious musical credibility you'd be hard pressed to beat A Few Good Men. This four-piece bring some serious energy and chemistry to the stage and between them the lads have worked with the cream of Irish musical talent and have performed for big names including Bono, The Edge, Jack Charlton and Giovanni Trapattoni. The band's set-list is impressively comprehensive, versatile and wide-ranging, encompassing pop, rock,

dance, soul, country, big band, easy listening, Irish tunes and much more - just check out their website below and YouTube channel for a taste of what they can offer for your nuptials. If you want popular tunes from the likes of Chuck Berry, The Beatles, Bowie and The Boss, as well as contemporary hits from acts such as Adele, Pharrell Williams, Kodaline and Paolo Nutini, A Few Good Men are the guys to call.
www.afewgoodmenband.com
 email: glen@afewgoodmenband.com
 Phone: 087-9741683 (Glen Baker)



THE SUITE

One of the busiest wedding bands in the country, this four-piece have been playing music together since their schooldays and have a well-honed set that brings a vibrant, fun atmosphere to all their performances. The Suite have a huge catalogue of wedding songs and party hits — literally from A to Z with Adele and The Zutons both featuring — and they're more than happy to add your special song to the list. The Suite also offer pre-dinner music and a professional DJ

service, so they are a one-stop-shop for your big day's entertainment needs. 2015 is already 75% booked out and is panning out to be their busiest year to date. The band has added lots of new songs to their wide-ranging set including the number one 'Uptown Funk' featuring Bruno Mars. The Suite are running a special offer for Thursday weddings in 2015 and you can catch them at their upcoming showcases on Jan 25, Feb 15 and March 1, all in Citywest from 6.00pm to 6.45pm
www.thesuitemusic.com
 Email: bookings@thesuitemusic.com
 Phone: 086-8650217 (Tina Kelly)



BLACKTYE

"You can't please everyone," runs the old saying but when it comes to a good wedding band that rule simply doesn't or shouldn't apply. Blacktye are remarkable for the versatility of their sets and ability to switch genres with ease. Think chart, ceili, country, jazz, traditional, ballads, anthems, soul, funk, rock and pop. Vocalists Kim Hayden and Conor Ryan are joined by rapper Phil Campbell to create Jackson Five-like harmonies and are backed up with the tight rhythm section of Darragh Dennis on bass and

drummer Graeme Stapleton. An award winning band, Blacktye have performed all over Ireland at government functions and events including Croke Park, Race Days at the Curragh and The Horse Show as well as corporate shindigs for the likes of Coca Cola, Microsoft, eBay, Failte Ireland, Twitter and Amazon — they even featured on RTE television's *Nationwide*. The band can also play at the church and drinks reception and offer a DJ service as well. Sweet!
www.blacktye.net
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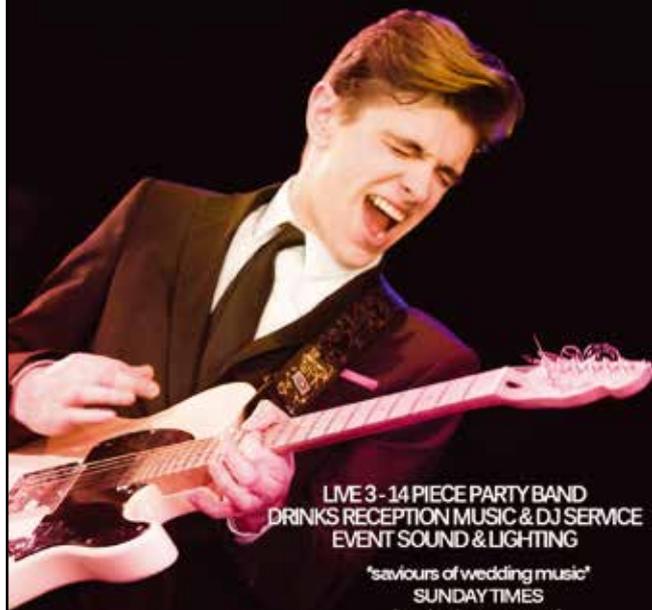
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THE HITMEN TRIO

The Hitmen Trio are three men who play hits in their own way. This is a wedding band with a difference. The Hitmen Trio use amplified acoustic instruments and pride themselves in their creative, original arrangements and mash-ups, giving well-loved songs a unique makeover.

Last year they won the Judges' Commendation for Wedding Band of the Year at the WeddingsOnline.ie awards and also won the Brides' Choice award with Mrs2Be.

The band are known for their harmony vocals and use guitar and piano to create an upbeat yet intimate sound. Roly Smyth, Cian Mekitarian and Romain Piccolo are versatile virtuoso players; their shows have so much energy

and passion you'd be forgiven for thinking there were twice as many onstage.

Their set includes Calvin Harris, Daft Punk, Rodrigo y Gabriella and Johnny Cash, as well as a waltz or two for older guests. You can book them for the whole day — they'll play instrumentals, religious and romantic music at the ceremony, a laid back pre-reception and spin the tracks after the main show as well.

The Hitmen Trio come with an official seal of approval from some of Ireland's most prestigious wedding venues, such as the K Club, the Four Seasons, Brook Lodge, Killiney Castle, Castle Leslie, Lyons Estate and Dunbrody House.

Web: www.thehitmentrio.com
Email: info@thehitmentrio.com
Phone: 086 805 8777 (Roly), 087 9527624 (Cian), 085 1624193 (Romain)



BENTLEY BOYS

RSVP Band of the Year 2013 & 2014, Weddings Online Finalists 2012, 2013, 2014 & 2015 – the Bentley Boys trophy cabinet is bursting at the seams! Smoothly weaving from intimate first dance dreaminess to a full tilt rock-fest is what these guys do best. Although supremely stylish, musical substance still wins out, ensuring the Bentley Boys are top of every wedding planner and event coordinator's list. Bentley Boys brides, similar to wedding

dress fittings, can also have their band tailor made just for their big day. These guys can blow the roof off with a 12 piece band or can slim down to a 5 or 6 piece band or even a 3 piece band for intimate weddings – the choice is yours! Their unique and renowned professionalism has seen them play with the likes of Amy Winehouse, Jamiroquai, Mariah Carey, PJ Harvey, The Waterboys, Chaka Khan and Imelda May and many others.

See www.bentleyboys.ie for a free CD and upcoming showcase details. info@bentleyboys.ie or 086 7744838

THE DIONNES

The Dionnes specialise in vintage-themed weddings and cater for those looking for something unique for their drinks reception/after party. Backed by a full live band of top professional musicians, with brass section if required, The Dionnes pride themselves on bringing the generations together on the dancefloor with their unique blend of Motown, soul and up to the minute contemporary tunes. Inspired by The Supremes, Martha and the Vandellas, with some Beyoncé, Nicki Minaj, Amy

Winehouse and Mark Ronson for good measure, they offer the perfect party playlist for all ages. They look fabulous too – with bodacious beehives, smooth moves and sweet harmonies, not to mention surprise costume changes! Packages on offer to suit every part of your big day, from the 3-piece 'tripleette' (suitable for drinks receptions) right up to the 9-piece big band with brass section for that "wow" factor.

Fiona: 086 3130184
Email: dionnesband@gmail.com
Website: www.thedionnes.ie
Facebook: www.facebook.com/thedionnes



VELVET LOUNGE

As the name suggests, The Velvet Lounge Band bring a distinctive twist to classics and contemporary hits, with upbeat new arrangements from musical director and all-round virtuoso Cian Boylan. Their set features Rat Pack classics and 1960s lounge swing and Latin grooves including the likes of 1960s bossa nova classics like Sergio Mendes 'Mas Que Nada'. Add to that their super-smooth lounge-style versions of contemporary artists such as The Strokes, Oasis, Moloko, Radiohead and The Cure and you have a wedding band to cover every

musical corner. Frontman Cormac Kenevey is signed with the UK jazz label Candid Records, home to Jamie Cullum, and has released two critically-acclaimed albums, while Boylan has worked with Duke Special, Van Morrison, Cathy Davey and Robin Gibb to name a few. Weddings aside, Velvet Lounge are worth seeing in any setting and you can catch them in action every Friday in January and February at the Mint Bar, The Westin Hotel, Westmoreland St, Dublin 2.

Web: www.velvetloungeband.com
Email: info@velvetloungeband.com
Phone: 087 221 6788 (Cian Boylan), 087 2865423 (Cormac Kenevey)





PHOTO: KEITH KENDRICK

BLUEMOOSE

One of the hardest working bands around, Bluemoose perform at all of the top college balls/rag weeks/festivals and have since become much in demand as a wedding band. A fully live 5-piece the members of the band are all full time musicians – and they make a point of stressing that the band you book is the band you get. They can cover a wide variety of songs from Abba to AC/DC, Nathan Carter to Nirvana and Michael Buble to Metallica, all played with great energy and with the sole purpose

of keeping the floor full. Bluemoose also offer a dedicated wedding show, 'A Moose Bouche', to cater for the older generation but still with the Bluemoose energy/set list at end of night. Not your normal run-of-the-mill wedding band, Bluemoose have something different to offer and are well worth checking out. Monthly Showcases - The Clonsilla Inn, Dublin. The Bridge House, Tullamore. Check Bluemoose.ie for dates.

www.bluemoose.ie
 Phone: 087 2628173
 Email: info@bluemoose.ie
www.facebook.com/bluemooseband



THE BUACHAILLS

With an impressive CV that includes an appearance as half-time act at the 2012 All Ireland football finals, touring with The High Kings, Finbar Furey, The Wolfe Tones and the prestigious honour of being the "house band" in Thomond Park, the Buchaills are nothing if not versatile and highly experienced as a live act. The band pride themselves on providing high quality live entertainment for weddings and

corporate events and their set-list includes pop, folk, country and old-time – everything from Johnny Cash's 'I Walk The Line' and Garth Brooks' 'Friends In Low Places' to The Waterboys' 'Fisherman's Blues' and The Stunning's 'Brewing Up A Storm'. They also include a wide range of Irish tunes and waltzes in their set, including 'The Fields of Athenry', 'The Galway Girl' and 'The Rocky Road To Dublin' to name just a few.

Eoin Murphy - 087 2524060
www.thebuachaills.com



LADY VEGAS

One of only a handful of female-fronted wedding bands in Ireland, Lady Vegas are a real gigging band and can be found playing some of the top venues and events throughout the country. The band have also performed internationally at festivals in Germany, Spain and France. The sound is 100% live with no gimmicks and is in their own words "a ballsy, raw, rock n roll sound". Music is clearly their

passion, and with input from each member of the band when creating a wedding set list, they take pride in having a vast and varied range of songs to choose from. Having years of collective experience and some of the best musicians in the business, there isn't a popular song they can't cover. From the get-go they are lively and entertaining and never fail to fill the dance floor. But Lady Vegas don't just entertain – they interact with the crowd.

Call Vikki on 085-8031748
www.ladyvegasentertainment.com
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