

# The Wylder Guide to Hiring Your Wedding DJ

## *Real Talk from the Booth*

By DJ Jimmy – Wylder Entertainment

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### Introduction: Why Your DJ Choice Matters More Than You Think

Here's the truth — your wedding DJ can make or break the vibe of your entire day. Not because they have the best speakers or a cool light show (though that helps). But because your DJ is the *heartbeat* of your wedding. They control the flow, the energy, and those “remember when” moments you'll talk about for years.

Most couples don't realize it until they've seen both kinds of weddings — one where the DJ keeps everyone connected and one where the playlist dies halfway through dinner. You can have the perfect venue, food, and flowers, but if your music falls flat, your guests will remember *that* more than the cake.

This guide isn't full of fluff or cookie-cutter advice.

It's written by a DJ who's seen the good, the bad, and the “please make it stop” moments from behind the booth. You'll learn how to pick a DJ who gets *you*, keeps your day running smooth, and knows how to read a crowd like a seasoned pro.

So grab your coffee (or your cocktail). Let's make sure your wedding doesn't just sound good — it *feels* unforgettable.

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### Chapter 1: Your DJ – The Heartbeat of the Celebration

Let's get one thing straight — your DJ isn't just someone who presses play.

They're the *emcee*, *vibe controller*, *timekeeper*, and unofficial wedding therapist all rolled into one. A great DJ can take a nervous crowd and turn it into a dance floor full of laughter, love, and bad dance moves that somehow feel just right.

#### A Tale of Two Receptions

Picture this.

It's a warm fall night in Arkansas. The candles are flickering, guests are smiling, and the energy is flowing. The DJ calls out the wedding party names like a hype man, slides seamlessly into the couple's first dance, and nails every transition. Before you know it, grandma's two-stepping next to the best man, and everyone's living their best life.

Now rewind.

Same budget. Same venue. But the couple handed a Bluetooth speaker to their cousin. No introductions, awkward silences, songs cutting off mid-toast. Half the guests leave early, and the rest are scrolling TikTok.

The difference?

One had a professional behind the booth. The other had a playlist.

### **What a Pro DJ Actually Does**

A real wedding DJ isn't just hitting buttons. They're managing *moments*.

- They set the tone when guests arrive.
- They keep things moving when the schedule slips.
- They read the room and adjust energy on the fly.
- And they do it all while keeping your vision front and center.

### **Why the Right DJ Is Worth It**

You're not just hiring someone to play music. You're hiring someone to make sure your wedding *feels right*. The songs, the timing, the emotion — all in sync. A great DJ turns logistics into magic.

When it's done right, no one notices how smooth everything runs. They just remember how it *felt*.

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### **Wylder Wisdom**

- A playlist can't read the room. A DJ can.
  - Smooth transitions aren't luck — they're the result of planning and timing.
  - The right DJ doesn't just play your music; they tell your love story through it.
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## **Chapter 2: Finding Your Perfect DJ – Cost, Value, and Vibes That Last**

Let's talk about the question everyone's afraid to ask first — “*How much does a wedding DJ cost?*”

Because, let's be honest, that's where most couples start.

You'll see prices all over the place. Some DJs quote \$600, others \$2,000+. And sure, it's tempting to save a few bucks, but here's the thing — you're not paying for hours of music. You're paying for the *experience* that keeps your entire wedding from unraveling.

A pro DJ isn't just showing up with speakers. They're showing up with years of experience, backup gear, a well-rehearsed timeline, and the skill to make everything *feel effortless*. That's what turns a good wedding into an *unforgettable* one.

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## What to Look for in a DJ (Beyond Price)

When you're shopping around, don't just compare playlists and lighting packages. Compare *value*.

Here's what separates a professional DJ from a “guy with gear”:

- 1. Experience That Saves You Stress**

A seasoned DJ knows how to navigate surprises — late dinners, delayed ceremonies, power hiccups — and keep things smooth. That calm confidence you feel? That's what you're paying for.

- 2. Professional Equipment & Backup Plans**

Every solid DJ has a Plan B. Power goes out? Laptop crashes? Mic dies mid-toast? No problem. Professionals come prepared because we've *seen* it all.

- 3. MC Skills That Keep It Flowing**

A great DJ isn't just playing music — they're running your show. They cue vendors, announce moments, and make transitions seamless. It's what keeps guests engaged and your schedule on track.

- 4. Customization & Connection**

You want someone who *gets* you — your vibe, your story, your crowd. The right DJ doesn't just play what you like; they blend it with what keeps your guests moving.

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## Understanding Cost vs. Value

Let's break it down.

A \$700 DJ might give you a playlist and some lights.

A \$1,500–\$2,000 DJ gives you *insurance* that your wedding runs on time, your guests stay hyped, and your night feels unforgettable.

That's not overspending — that's protecting one of the biggest days of your life from going sideways.

It's like comparing a paper plate to fine china — both can hold dinner, but only one elevates the experience.

When you hire a pro, you're not just paying for gear. You're paying for peace of mind, energy management, and the invisible magic that makes your wedding *feel* like your wedding.

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## Red Flags to Watch Out For

If you see these, hit the brakes:

- No contract or deposit — that's a red flag the size of a subwoofer.
- Vague answers about gear or setup time.
- "I'll just use Spotify" — nope. You're one Wi-Fi dropout away from disaster.
- No insurance, no backup gear, or no experience with weddings.

The best DJs make it look easy because they've spent years making sure it *is*.

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## Wylder Wisdom

- A great DJ isn't an expense — they're an *investment* in your peace of mind.
  - Cheap DJs cost less because they *do* less.
  - Anyone can play songs. A pro plays the *crowd*.
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## Chapter 3: The First Meeting – Trust, Connection, and Building the Moment

So, you've found a few DJs who look promising.

You've scrolled through websites, read reviews, maybe even watched a few Instagram reels of packed dance floors.

Now comes the part that really matters — the first conversation.

This isn't just about asking, "*Are you available?*" It's about figuring out if you can trust this person to guide one of the biggest days of your life.

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### It's Not an Interview — It's a Vibe Check

The first meeting should feel natural, not like a job interview.

You're looking for someone who listens, asks smart questions, and genuinely wants to understand your vision — not just fill a time slot.

A good DJ will talk less about "packages" and more about *people* — you, your crowd, your story, and how you want your night to feel. Because if you can connect now, that chemistry will carry through every beat on your wedding day.

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### Trust Is the Real Contract

Before there's a signature or a deposit, there has to be trust.

Trust that your DJ will be early, read the room, and keep everything running smoothly without stealing the spotlight.

Trust that when things shift — and they *will* — your DJ will handle it with calm confidence.

That's what separates someone who just plays music from someone who helps create a memory you'll talk about for years.

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### Questions Worth Asking

Here are a few conversation starters that tell you more than any brochure ever could:

- "How do you keep guests engaged when energy dips?"
- "What's your backup plan if something unexpected happens?"

- “How do you handle timing when things run behind?”
- “What’s your favorite wedding story?”

Their answers will tell you if they’ve actually *been there* — not just read about it online.

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## The Hidden Ingredient: Comfort

The best sign you’ve found the right DJ? You *feel comfortable*.

You don’t have to explain your taste twice.

You know they’ll handle announcements with confidence and respect.

You can actually picture yourself relaxing on your wedding day because you know your DJ has it covered.

That comfort is worth more than any price tag. It’s what lets you stop worrying and start *living* in the moment.

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## Why This Meeting Matters

This is where the partnership begins. You’re not just hiring a vendor — you’re teaming up with someone who’ll shape the emotional flow of your day.

Music fades, photos age, but the *feeling* of a perfectly timed song, the laughter, the connection — that stays forever.

That’s what the right DJ brings: a lifetime of memories built on trust, timing, and heart.

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## Wylder Wisdom

- If the connection feels real, trust it — your gut’s smarter than your budget.
  - The best DJs don’t just earn your business; they earn your confidence.
  - Long after the last song fades, you’ll still remember how your DJ made your night *feel*.
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## Chapter 4: Crafting the Perfect Playlist – Music That Feels Like You

Music is the one language that hits everyone the same way — straight to the heart.

It can bring tears, start a laugh, or pull every guest to the dance floor at once. That's why your playlist isn't just "songs for the night." It's the *soundtrack of your story*.

Anyone can throw together a list of wedding hits.

But the right DJ? They blend your story, your crowd, and your energy into one seamless experience that *feels like you*.

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### Every Song Tells a Story

That first song when you walk down the aisle — it sets the tone.

The one you dance to with your mom or dad — that's a memory etched in time.

And that last song of the night? That's what guests will hum walking back to their cars, smiling like they just witnessed something special.

A great DJ listens not just to your song requests but to your *why*.

Why that artist? Why that tempo? Why that lyric?

When your playlist matches your heartbeat, your whole wedding feels alive.

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### The Magic of Collaboration

Here's the secret: you don't need to hand your DJ a 200-song list.

What you need is *trust and communication*.

Tell your DJ the vibe you want — romantic dinner, classy cocktails, all-out dance floor chaos — and let them work their magic. The best DJs use your input as inspiration, not limitation.

And if they're really good (hint: that's what you're looking for), they'll read your crowd live and build energy in real-time.

That's not guesswork — that's instinct built from years of weddings, packed floors, and those perfect moments when every song just *clicks*.

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### Balancing You and Your Guests

Your wedding isn't just your party — it's everyone's.

That doesn't mean you have to play what you hate; it means finding that middle ground where *you* feel seen, and your guests feel included.

The trick is blending your taste with timeless crowd favorites.

Think of it like a dance between “your story” and “their fun.”

You pick the feeling — your DJ shapes the flow.

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## Avoiding the Cookie-Cutter Soundtrack

There's nothing wrong with classics like “Shout” or “Don't Stop Believin'.” But when every wedding plays the same 15 songs, it loses its magic.

A good DJ will mix your personality into the night — unexpected tracks, fun transitions, maybe even a throwback that surprises your crowd in the best way possible.

That's what separates a *playlist* from an *experience*.

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## A Note on the First and Last Songs

### First Dance:

Pick a song that *feels* like you — not what's trending. Whether it's a slow sway or a choreographed routine, make it yours. The emotion in that moment matters more than perfection.

### Last Song:

End the night with intention. Don't fade out — *finish strong*.

A song that wraps up the story and leaves everyone glowing is what they'll remember. Your DJ will know exactly how to time that final beat so it lands perfectly.

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## Wylder Wisdom

- You're not picking songs. You're curating *memories*.
  - The right DJ doesn't just play your music; they play your emotions.
  - Your playlist should sound like *you* — not like every wedding that came before.
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## Chapter 5: The Logistics – How to Keep the Day Running Smoothly (and Stress-Free)

Here's a secret no one tells you when you're planning your wedding:

Every timeline looks perfect *until real life shows up*.

The florist is running late. The caterer's waiting on the photographer. Your uncle's mic doesn't work.

That's where your DJ steps in — the silent conductor keeping everyone in sync without anyone realizing it.

When done right, it looks effortless.

When it's not, you can *feel* it.

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### The DJ Is Your Behind-the-Scenes Anchor

Your DJ isn't just a music pro. They're part event manager, part MC, part problem-solver.

They coordinate with every vendor, make smooth transitions, and keep guests engaged no matter what's happening behind the scenes.

When your DJ's organized, the night feels seamless — and you actually get to *enjoy* your wedding instead of worrying about what's next.

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### Teamwork Makes the Magic Happen

A great DJ knows the value of communication. They'll check in with:

- **Photographers**, to make sure they're ready before key moments.
- **Caterers**, to time dinner and toasts without awkward pauses.
- **Planners**, to adjust when schedules shift (because they always do).

It's not about control — it's about *collaboration*.

That's what separates a vendor from a partner.

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### Preparation Is Everything

Behind every smooth wedding is a mountain of prep you never see.  
A professional DJ will:

- Confirm your timeline and details before the event.
- Bring backup gear (because things *do* go wrong).
- Double-check venue power, setup space, and sound coverage.
- Arrive early enough to fix anything before guests ever notice.

When your DJ prepares like a pro, you don't have to worry about anything except soaking in the moment.

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## **Flow Beats Perfection**

Here's the truth — no wedding runs exactly as planned.  
But that doesn't mean it can't *feel* perfect.  
A skilled DJ adapts to every curveball and keeps the flow natural.

If dinner runs late, your DJ adjusts the music.  
If the bride's dad wants to give a last-minute toast, they handle it smoothly.  
If the dance floor's quiet, they bring it back to life.

That's the value of experience — not just knowing what to do, but knowing how to make it look easy.

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## **The Calm You Don't See (But Always Feel)**

Guests might not notice how your DJ's keeping things on track — and that's the point.  
A true professional makes chaos look like choreography.

When couples tell me, "Everything just flowed," that's the best compliment I can get.  
Because it means I did my job — quietly, confidently, and in rhythm with your vision.

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## **Wylder Wisdom**

- Behind every "perfect" wedding is a DJ who stayed calm when things weren't.

- Your DJ isn't just playing songs — they're protecting the *moment*.
  - When everything flows, no one notices the work — and that's the magic.
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## Chapter 6: Mistakes to Avoid – Real Talk from the Booth

Every DJ has a few war stories.

And every one of them starts with a couple who *meant well* but skipped a few important details.

Here's the truth: most wedding-day disasters aren't caused by bad luck — they happen because of small choices made early on.

The wrong timing, unclear communication, or, worst of all, the *friend with a playlist*.

This chapter isn't about fear. It's about foresight.

Because once you know what to watch out for, you'll never have to worry about your wedding going offbeat.

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### Mistake #1: Choosing the Cheapest DJ

Let's start with the one that hurts the most.

Everyone wants to save money — I get it. But your DJ isn't a "nice-to-have." They're the one making your day *feel* like a celebration.

When you hire someone who undercuts every other pro in town, you're not getting a deal — you're getting a gamble.

Cheap DJs cut corners on gear, prep, and experience. And when things go sideways, you're the one holding the bag.

The best DJs don't just show up. They show *up ready*.

**Wylder Wisdom:** You'll forget what you paid. You'll never forget how it felt.

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### Mistake #2: Forgetting the Flow

Your wedding isn't a concert — it's a story.

Every song, every transition, every announcement builds momentum.

When that flow breaks, so does the energy.

I've seen weddings where the wrong timing killed the mood faster than a dead mic. Toasts during dinner? Fine. Toasts during the *first dance*? Not so much.

That's why your DJ keeps the rhythm going — not just musically, but emotionally.

They make sure the night *breathes*, so everyone stays connected from the first kiss to the last song.

**Wylder Wisdom:** Your timeline runs the show, but your DJ keeps it dancing.

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### **Mistake #3: Not Trusting Your DJ**

Here's a tough one: you've planned every detail, and you want it perfect. Totally understandable. But if you micro-manage your DJ, you clip their wings.

A seasoned pro knows when to drop a song that saves the dance floor — or skip one that's killing it.

If you trust your DJ to do what they do best, they'll take your vision and make it shine brighter than you imagined.

**Wylder Wisdom:** Tell your DJ the destination, then let them drive the vibe.

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### **Mistake #4: Ignoring the Energy**

Some couples want a packed dance floor but plan every second so tight there's no room for fun. Others expect guests to dance for hours after heavy barbecue and three drinks.

Your DJ reads the room — but you've got to give them the freedom to *shift gears* when needed.

If the crowd's loving 2000s pop, maybe don't force a 10-minute jazz set. Let the moment breathe.

**Wylder Wisdom:** Energy is like fire — your DJ can spark it, but you have to give it oxygen.

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### **Mistake #5: Skipping the Soundcheck**

Nothing kills a ceremony faster than silence when the bride starts walking down the aisle.

Good DJs test, retest, and double-check *everything*. But if setup time is rushed or access is limited, even pros are working uphill.

Give your DJ the time and space to do it right.

That soundcheck isn't a luxury — it's your insurance policy against awkward silence and technical chaos.

**Wylder Wisdom:** You only get one first dance. Make sure your DJ's gear gets there before you do.

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## The Real Secret to a Perfect Night

You don't need perfection — you need presence.

The right DJ makes sure the timeline flows, the mood feels right, and every memory plays in perfect harmony.

Long after the night's over, you won't remember what went wrong (because no one noticed).

You'll remember that it felt *easy*. Natural. Joyful.

That's what a professional DJ gives you — freedom to live in your moment while they handle everything else.

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## Wylder Wisdom Recap

- Bad DJs play songs. Great DJs *play the night*.
  - Mistakes happen. Professionals make sure you never see them.
  - The best weddings don't run perfect — they *feel* perfect.
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## Closing Chapter: Moving Forward with Confidence

You made it through the planning, the phone calls, the opinions from everyone and their cousin — and now you're here.

Reading this means you care about doing it right.

And that already puts you ahead of the game.

Here's the thing most couples eventually realize: your wedding day isn't about chasing perfection.

It's about *feeling present*.

When your DJ's got you covered — the music, the flow, the timing, the energy — you finally get to stop worrying and just *live in the moment*.

That's when it all clicks.

The laughter, the dancing, the tears, the cheers — it all syncs like a heartbeat.

And long after the night's over, you'll remember not how polished it looked, but how it *felt*.

That's what this whole thing is about — crafting memories that last a lifetime, not just an evening.

So whether you're saying "I do" in a grand ballroom in Northwest Arkansas or under the stars in Eureka Springs, remember this:

Your DJ isn't just part of your day.

They're the rhythm behind it.

And when you find the right one — someone who listens, leads, and lives for those moments — your wedding becomes something words can't fully describe.

It becomes a feeling you'll never forget.

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## Wylder Wisdom

- Perfection fades. Emotion lasts forever.
  - The right DJ doesn't steal the spotlight — they *light it up*.
  - When the music fits your love story, the night becomes timeless.
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## Bonus Section: Your Wylder Wedding DJ Checklist

Because let's face it — a little preparation now means a stress-free celebration later.

Here's your step-by-step guide to hiring and working with your DJ like a pro.

### Step 1: The Search

- ✓ Research local DJs with solid reviews and real wedding experience.
- ✓ Watch videos, not just photos — see how they interact with crowds.
- ✓ Check if they handle coordination and MC duties, not just music.

### Step 2: The First Meeting

- ✓ See if you *click*. Trust your gut — chemistry matters more than gear.
- ✓ Ask how they handle changes, energy shifts, and vendor coordination.
- ✓ Make sure they actually listen — not just pitch.

### Step 3: The Plan

- ✓ Share your must-play and do-not-play lists early.
- ✓ Go over your wedding timeline and major moments.
- ✓ Give your DJ creative freedom to read the crowd and adjust.

### Step 4: The Setup

- ✓ Confirm arrival time, power access, and space for equipment.
- ✓ Schedule a quick soundcheck before guests arrive.
- ✓ Have a point of contact (planner, best man, etc.) ready for the day-of.

### Step 5: The Big Day

- ✓ Relax — your DJ's got it from here.
- ✓ Let the music tell your story.
- ✓ Dance like it's the last song of your life.

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### Final Note from DJ Jimmy

I've seen hundreds of weddings — big, small, fancy, and simple.

But the ones that always stick with me are the ones where the couple trusted the process, let go of the stress, and *had fun*.

That's my promise when I'm behind the booth:

You handle the love story — I'll handle the rhythm.

Because your wedding deserves more than just good music.

It deserves to *feel Wylder*.

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### Back Cover Description

#### The Wylder Guide to Hiring Your Wedding DJ – Real Talk from the Booth

Your wedding deserves more than just music — it deserves a *vibe*.

In this down-to-earth, insider guide, DJ Jimmy pulls back the curtain on what really makes a wedding unforgettable. With over 15 years of experience behind the decks and the mic, he shares how to find the right DJ, avoid the common pitfalls, and create a celebration that feels like *you*.

You'll learn how to:

- Choose a DJ who matches your energy (and your vision)
- Build a music experience that connects every guest — from grandma to your college crew
- Keep your timeline running smooth without the stress
- Understand what you're really paying for (and why it's worth it)
- Turn a good night into a lifetime memory

This isn't your average "wedding advice" book.

It's real stories, real insight, and straight talk from someone who's seen it all — and knows exactly how to keep your day in perfect rhythm.

Whether you're getting married in Northwest Arkansas, Eureka Springs, or anywhere love meets the dance floor, *The Wylder Guide* gives you the confidence to relax, trust your team, and make your wedding unforgettable.

**Because when the music fits your story, the night becomes timeless.**

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## About the Author

**DJ Jimmy** has spent over 15 + years crafting unforgettable wedding experiences across Arkansas and Missouri as the owner of **Wylder Entertainment**.

Part DJ, part Master of Ceremonies, and part crowd conductor, Jimmy's philosophy is simple: *exceptional service builds lasting memories.*

Known for his smooth flow, professional edge, and natural ability to read any crowd, DJ Jimmy has become one of the region's most trusted names in wedding entertainment.

From intimate celebrations to packed ballrooms, his focus never changes — create a stress-free night where love, laughter, and music all hit the same beat.

When he's not rocking weddings, you can find him sharing his insights through his blog, hosting [Wedding Chatter That Matters](#) or helping couples plan their dream day with heart and just the right amount of energy.

**Wylder Entertainment – Where Every Moment Finds Its Rhythm.**

 [www.wylderentertainment.com](http://www.wylderentertainment.com)