



The Retrosettes Frequently Asked Questions

If you've never booked a band before or think that going through an agency is a better/safer way to book live music then first read through our frequently asked questions. This should put your mind at ease. If you have other questions get in touch through our contact page

Have you played at a wedding before? What kinds of events have you done?

We have been together as a band for around 12 years, in that time we have played approximately 50 weddings each year on average. This number is rising each year. We are therefore very experienced in this field. We have also been in other bands together for the last 15 years playing at weddings, corporate functions, parties, festivals and themed events all over the UK and beyond.

Have you played for any companies before?

We have played at various events organised by corporate clients. The list includes, Manchester United, The Hilton Chain, The Mecure Hotel, Chain, Wembley Stadium, Mercedes, Ferrari, Volkswagon, British Airways, Habitat, Revolution, Boots, The Trafford Centre, etc. We are very experienced at working in a corporate environment and also putting on entertainment for corporate parties.

How many people are in the band?

Our standard lineup is a quintet (5 musicians). This consists of female vocals/accordion, male vocals/guitar, double bass, piano and drums. We can scale down to an acoustic duo or trio, but this is mainly for daytime events, or for smaller events where background music is more appropriate. The full quintet is the best choice for an evening event if you want your guests to dance.

What type of music do you play?

We play a range of musical styles from 50s country, to 60s pop and soul, then popular music right up to the present day. We have an eclectic background within the jazz, pop and country worlds and like to think we can turn any song into our unique Retrosettes style.

How long do you play for?

Our standard play time is around 2 hours. This is split into two 1 hour sets. We can play for additional time for an extra fee, including stripped back acoustic sets.

Can/Should we book you through an agency?

This is an option yes. We work with many of the big agencies under various band names (you may notice our photos and videos on agency pages). We work with Alive Network, Bands For Hire, Live Music Management (LMM), Function Central, Warble, Hireaband, Freak Music and a few others. When you go to these companies you have to pay them a fee to draw up a contract on our behalf. It is worth mentioning that we have a similar contract to offer you with the same security if you book us directly through this website (we don't charge any extra for this)

Do you have your own PA system and lighting?

Yes. It is PAT tested and comes under our Public Liability Insurance certificate. We use RCF 10A Hi Definition speakers plus stage monitors and a digital mixing desk. This gives us around 1K watts of amplification and suitable for most events. Our lighting is fairly subtle to keep in with the quirky image of the band, we usually bring uplighters and rope lights.

Can you play music in between sets?

Yes. We are not DJs though. We can put on pre mixed music through our PA system before, during and after the performance times (usually until midnight for evening events). The songs in these DJ playlists can be designed completely by you before the event (we then upload the list into a device via our Spotify premium account). We have many playlists to use if you don't want to choose all the songs yourself.

Can you learn songs not in your playlist?

Yes. We usually say we will be happy to learn 1 song for your event (typically a first dance song). If you want a lot of songs we don't currently play we may ask for a fee on top to arrange these songs for the band. If you give us enough notice we can learn a few songs to make your event completely unique.

Will you require a deposit?

Typically yes. We will require a £20% deposit to secure the booking for both of us. Unless there are circumstances that warrant it, this deposit is not refundable. Full details are on our booking contract

What happens if I have to cancel?

This all depends on the reason for cancellation and how close to the event it is. The details for this will be on your booking form/contract that you can look at before you pay a deposit. If we can get a replacement gig in time then we always aim to do this and repay the full deposit.

When is the final payment due?

Either in cash on the night, or 1 week in advance if paying by cheque or BACs.

We want to do a few speeches and announcements. Can we use your PA?

Yes. If possible we could do with knowing before the event so we can set up a separate speeches microphone off the stage. Note, we do not own radio mics, it is probably better to enquire with your venue about this, as many now keep them on site.

How do we know you will actually turn up?

People are quite mistrusting of musicians we have found! Too many crazy famous musicians have given us all a bad name! The contract you will sign with us will be your assurance that we will turn up and is legally binding. If you love the band but are really concerned you can always book us through one of the many agencies we are on. These can be found on our contact page, but we will be more expensive if you go this route.

Will we need to put you up in a hotel for an overnight stay?

This all depends on the distance away from Manchester. Typically if we are going to stay overnight we will quote a price that includes our overnight accommodation. If you know of a cheaper hotel or AirBnB locally you may wish to request that you pay for this and we can reduce our quote to you.

What else will you need from us?

Information of where to park. Soft drinks through the night and preferably some food so we don't have to go off site at any point (we have 1 Coeliac in the band and no vegetarians). We will also need at least two 13 amp plug sockets for our equipment. We will obviously have a few chats with you before your event so you are totally comfortable about everything, this will mean that when the special day comes there won't be any questions left to ask!

What will the band wear at my event?

We are always smartly dressed. If you have a specific dress code this should be discussed before the contract is signed.

What time will you play until?

We don't normally play much past midnight without a change in the overall fee. In terms of set times on the night, this can be negotiated. We are also very flexible if you are running late (or early,

although we don't get asked to play early very often!) If your event doesn't finish until very late this is negotiable as long as we know in advance.

Can you play in venues that have sound limiters?

Being a jazz band to begin with we have a tendency to be one of the quieter function bands out there. The volume is dependent on the drums, the drummer can play with brushes to reduce the overall volume and the rest of the musicians can adjust accordingly. We are able to play to sound limiters and can go as low as 85dB if required (the acoustic duo/trio is ideal for this), but are more comfortable with the full band if the limiter is set to 90-95dB. It's interesting to note that we've managed to play at several venues that state in their literature that they won't allow live bands, or bands with acoustic drummers etc. When we explain to them the nature of the band, they tend to be quite lenient with us and often make an exception.

How much do you charge?

This will heavily depend on the amount of musicians you want, the distance from Manchester, the times you want us to play for and what night of the week you want us to play. Our price for the weekend is a lot higher as we are in demand on these nights. Call or e-mail the band to discuss your specific requirements to gain an accurate quote.