



"If there is anyone present who objects to drummers declaring on their passport that they are wedding musicians "SPEAK NOW or forever hold their peace"

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MY LIFE YOUR LIFE IN THIS CREATIVE PURSUIT

From my long experience of spending time making music and working with other musicians , we get the "bug" and no setback or side road stops us thinking about , practicing and performing music

While others are relaxing at a function gig or event , we are driving , loading and at last playing music ; for the most part for small amounts of money in the hope of landing the dream gig (see Ringo in "A HARD DAYS NIGHT").

As fate would have it (50% fate + 50% being ready to play an instrument at a professional level) 10 years ago I got a call to play drums in a lounge band as a sideman.This band fell

apart when the leader left , so I made a decision to keep the band alive ; At the age of 45 years old to finally call the shots and book and play in what would become a wedding/ club band.

UNCOOL !!!!!!!

Which was probably what a lot of my musical friends thought, as they battled club management to allow the band refreshments and a meal (similar to their onsite contract staff). Remember guys / girls , you are not liasing with a person who has the complete collection of coltrane on vinyl. This guy is looking at a balance sheet and talking to his/her boss about profits.

I REST MY CASE (the big picture) OR "I'm Married to my Wedding Band" from a DRUMMERS PERSPECTIVE

- I don't do as much "door knocking cold calling" the business comes to me
- wedding bookings are in advance , you can plan your year and pick up other sideman gigs
- I am taking booking deposits in advance, so the bank balance stays in credit
- look at how much is spent on catering , flowers, photography... ?? I pay my musicians in accordance with those outgoings if you get my drift ?
- You get to play lots of brushes : Drummers I admire and of course emulate are brush players : Mel Lewis Jeff Hamilton even Gadd hits the brushes with a beautiful style... There is much to learn at low volumes
- You can hear your cymbals !! from a whisper shimmer to a crash later in the evening.
- bosa nova ... swing funk.... rock (it's like Mr Tommy Igoes "groove essentials book ...i'm honing skills and working at the same time!)
- part of my sales pitch is to learn a special song for the bride and groom...which sometimes translates into me transcribing a new song I am not familiar with..
- This song then ends up in my teaching studio the following week as a lesson.

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- Another great thing to remember is , this is an important event in someones life and music plays a big part of it..This is very TANGIBLE to all who attend the ceremony and reception....SO
- be on time
- dress professionally
- smile, greet guests and strike up a conversation if there is time...this could be your next client

- do not "over induge" drinking and eating in general "it's a very bad look"
- You may not see the bride and groom again , however chances are you will be working with the caterers and the venue owners . They notice , they talk and they do meet !!
- any "de brief" will involve "and the band was"
- competition is all around you

These are just a few points that come to mind and I hope this gives heart to other drummers who don a bowtie and get to play the drums in an enviroment that I have found both financially rewarding and and some nights musical bliss.

The musicians I have chosen to work with are gifted and professional .

Booking and running a band can be hard work , however you are in control of your own path rather than hope the phone will ring....

This represents my last 10 years on the road , hoping the next will be just as good..!!

Have a great gig whatever you do , self respect and pay your rent too !!

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