



# INFORMMIE

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**SECRET SERVICE** Want to access a top wedding planner's little black book without paying for the full planning service? For a one-off fee of £500, celeb wedding planners Smith And Niemierko ([smithniemierko.com](http://smithniemierko.com)) will let you in on their supplier secrets.

# 30 best wedding BANDS

We asked the country's leading wedding planners to open their little black books...



## PARTY BANDS

### £££ REEL DEAL BAND

(reeldealband.com)  
'The artists and musicians in Reel Deal are second to none and a hit with celebs. They've played a mix of '80s pop, soul and disco for, among others, Bill Clinton, Sacha Baron Cohen and Prince. They can even arrange for their celebrity contacts to perform with the band exclusively for your big day!'  
NAFISA EVENTS

### £££ MADISON SQUARE

(madisonsquare.co.uk)  
'Always our first choice of live band, Madison Square specialises in uplifting chart music, from the 1960s to the present day. It's impressive how they seamlessly segue from one song to the next.'  
SMITH AND NIEMIERKO

### £££ THE GILEV SHOWBAND

(thegilevshowband.com)  
'A high-energy entertainment show with that all-important wow factor. They offer a bespoke service for multicultural clients

and can sing songs in several languages, including Spanish, Hebrew, Yiddish, Arabic, Italian, and English. They're particularly popular with our Jewish clients.'  
NAFISA EVENTS

### ££ THE TOP HAT BAND

(hatband.co.uk)  
'Wedding guests adore this band, which plays everything from the 1950s onwards and once entertained the Queen! The regular line-up is a four-piece, but it can be extended to a 12-piece if required.'  
DREAM OCCASIONS

### ££ AFTER DARK

(afterdark1.co.uk)  
'This hugely talented six-piece line-up is dynamic, reliable and excellent value. They play a wide variety of songs from the '50s onwards and will happily learn new songs for your wedding.'  
SMITH AND NIEMIERKO

### ££ FUNKY LIPSTICK

(afterdarkents.co.uk)  
'A young and energetic six-piece band that brings together some of the country's most sought-after

musicians to cover current chart hits, pop classics and modern rock. Members have performed all over the world with artists such as Robbie Williams, Texas, All Saints and Enrique Iglesias.'  
THE ADMIRABLE CRICHTON

### ££ JUMPIN'

(charm-music.co.uk)  
'A fantastic cover band that is on (upmarket wedding venue) Highclere Castle's preferred list. We've caught ourselves singing along when we shouldn't!'  
THE BESPOKE WEDDING COMPANY

### £ THE CHIP SHOP BOYS

(chipshopboys.com)  
'My favourite rock-and-pop cover band, who'll play anything from

The Beatles to Kaiser Chiefs – the sort of stuff you and your girlfriends dance to on a night out.'  
SARAH HAYWOOD WEDDINGS & EVENTS

## JAZZ BANDS

### £££ ANGUS MURRAY AND HIS BIG BAND

(jazzswing.co.uk)  
'Jazz at its most fun – there won't be anyone left seated when they're in full swing! They played at Kate Garraway's wedding.'  
SARAH HAYWOOD WEDDINGS & EVENTS

### ££ ZHENYA STRIGALEV

(myspace.com/zhenyastrigalev)  
'We booked this fantastic Russian jazz saxophonist and a fab vocalist called Nina Ferro to play at Chantelle and Preston's wedding last year. They were the highlight of the day. Extremely chic.'  
SMITH AND NIEMIERKO

### £ MARK BOBB MUSIC

(markbobbmusic.co.uk)  
'Mark, a jazz musician with a velvety smooth voice, performs with a two- to five-piece band. They're a good-looking and →

## THE SOUND OF MUSIC

How much is your dream band?

£££ Priced from £2,000, plus travel expenses

££ Priced from £800, plus travel expenses

£ Priced from £200, plus travel expenses

well-presented act with an edgy repertoire.'

PEREGRINE ARMSTRONG-JONES

**TRIBUTE BANDS**

£££ **Mixed Feelings**  
(mixedfeelings.co.uk)

'This hugely popular band specialises in costumed, singing-and-dancing tributes to music legends, from the '70s to the present day. But be warned – you'll need to book them at least a year in advance!'

KATHRYN LLOYD WEDDING DESIGN

£££ **Legends of Rock**  
(legendschance.com)

'A colourful line-up of the best British lookalikes, choreographed to perfection by Trevor Chance and his team of costumiers and production creators. This band worked for me last year in Monaco. They were dynamite!'

PEREGRINE ARMSTRONG-JONES

££ **Marc Hockley**  
(robbingwilliams.co.uk)

'He's the best Robbie Williams impersonator around and a pleasure to work with. He can be hired in various formats – solo artist, duo or four-piece band. We used him as part of a duo and he was excellent. One guest even threw her tights at him!'

THE BESPOKE WEDDING COMPANY

£££ **Blunter Brothers**  
(blunterbrothers.co.uk)

'This 12-strong jazz-funk band always brings the house down. Tribute is paid to such classic stars as James Brown, Stevie Wonder and the Commodores, as well as modern-day artists including Shola Ama and the Brand New Heavies.'

SARAH HAYWOOD WEDDINGS & EVENTS

£££ **ForFunkSake**  
(forfunksake.com)

'A high-energy '70s and '80s funk and disco band who dress up in appropriate retro threads and work really hard to ensure everyone is up and dancing.'

DREAM OCCASIONS

££ **Soul-Glo**  
(csmusic.co.uk)

'All the best upbeat soul and

Motown hits from a seven-piece band whose musicians have performed with countless famous names, from Take That to Avril Lavigne to Nelly Furtado.'

KATHRYN LLOYD WEDDING DESIGN

£ **Payback**  
(function-band.com)

'An excellent but inexpensive funk and disco band that is in demand with lots of our wedding guests across the country.'

THE ADMIRABLE CRICHTON

£ **Soulpower**  
(soulpower.biz)

'This is a really fabulous band that sings great soul and Motown music. They are famous for keeping everyone on the dance floor and their choice of songs is guaranteed to appeal to guests of all ages.'

KATHRYN LLOYD WEDDING DESIGN

**SMALL BANDS**

££ **Essence**  
(essenceduo.com)

'This is a fantastic option if you're tight for space. Tim uses two keyboards, drum machines and light sequencers to create a big-band sound, and Nina is a great lead vocalist. They also provide a disco between sets.'

DREAM OCCASIONS

£ **Matt Smith**  
(07967 096316)

'This electric guitarist is perfect for a drinks reception; he's the modern equivalent of a string quartet.'

SMITH AND NIEMIERKO

£ **The Love Junkies**  
(thelovejunkies.co.uk)

'Perfect for a smaller wedding. They're happy to travel and we find them cost-effective for weddings abroad. They cater to a wide variety of musical tastes.'

NAFISA EVENTS

**THEMED BANDS**

££ **Love Train**  
(lovetrain.co.uk)

'This 1970s-themed band features an energetic line-up of musicians whose act is slickly presented (think shimmering white flares...). They're famous for playing at Zara Phillips'

21st birthday party at Windsor Castle in 2002.'

PEREGRINE ARMSTRONG-JONES

££ **Los Buendia**  
(kingpromotions.co.uk)

'An amazing Latin band playing a wide range of salsa music from South America and the Caribbean, which can be combined with British tunes. They will certainly keep the dance floor packed!'

THE BESPOKE WEDDING COMPANY

£ **The Shellac Sisters**  
(shellacsisters.co.uk)

'If you're looking for something completely different, try the

Shellac Sisters – four glamorous girls who dress in all things vintage and play 78rpm records on 1920s wind-up gramophones. Don't you just love it?!

SMITH AND NIEMIERKO

**DJS**

£££ **Mo Morris**  
(07980 100748)

'An über-cool, fashion-led DJ who has played for Mario Testino. We booked him for a wedding at The Hempel hotel in west London last year – he was great and even gave the couple some of the music.'

SMITH AND NIEMIERKO

££ **Hot Wax Associates**  
(hotwaxassociates.co.uk)

'These guys come suited and booted, have an extensive playlist and are happy to take requests. The crew arrives early in the day so there's no distracting after-dinner set up.'

AMBERLEY ROSE

££ **Beach Mercer at Sliding Vinyl Discotheques**  
(slidingvinyl.com)

'Excellent all-round DJ and crowd-pleaser who plays mainly classics and chart hits (without the cheese), but is always open to suggestions by the couple and their guests. Speaking on the mic is kept to a minimum.'

THE BESPOKE WEDDING COMPANY

££ **Classic Nomad**  
(thedisco.co.uk)

'Highly recommended for weddings in the South East. They will play a variety of songs throughout the day, if required. We particularly love their stylish disco-booth décor, which is themed to match each wedding.'

DREAM OCCASIONS

£ **Brian Monk at Firebird**  
(firebirdents.co.uk)

'Brian's a great party DJ with an excellent collection of music and various options for lighting. He is happy to play tracks according to your brief. He has worked with us very successfully on Latino-inspired and '50s-themed weddings.'

THE BESPOKE WEDDING COMPANY

**THE BRIDES TEAM'S FAVOURITE FIRST DANCES**

\* *Fly Me to the Moon*, as sung by Doris Day  
SIMON LEADSFORD, PUBLISHER

\* *I've Got You Under My Skin*, as sung by Cole Porter  
ALEX GORTON, TRAVEL EDITOR

\* *How Sweet It Is*, as sung by James Taylor  
ALICE GUILLEMET, HEALTH AND BEAUTY EDITOR

\* *Islands in the Stream*, as sung by Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers  
ALEX BLACK, ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

\* *It Had to be You*, as sung by Harry Connick Jnr  
CAMILLA NEWMAN, ADVERTISEMENT DIRECTOR

\* *Peaceful Easy Feeling*, as sung by the Eagles  
EMILY MURRAY, EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

\* *The Wonder of You*, as sung by Elvis  
DEBORAH JOSEPH, EDITOR

\* *Can't Take My Eyes Off You*, as sung by Frankie Valli  
KIRSTY MACLENNAN, CHIEF SUB-EDITOR/ASSISTANT EDITOR