

Celebrations

WITH *Alan Marshall*

Bringing Your Special Events To Life



10 Strategies to Fill the
Dance Floor at Your Wedding
(And Keep the Party Going!)



You've probably been to a wedding or party where it just "didn't feel right", there was no "vibe", the energy was missing and it fizzled out early. Couples can feel a little nervous about their wedding reception and whether their family and friends will enjoy it.

That's why I've written these 10 strategies to make sure it doesn't happen to you...

1. Planning – Planning is at the heart of every great party, and your wedding, at least the evening bit, is basically a celebration and party. Great parties don't just happen. Ensuring your guests hit the dance floor and stay there requires careful thought and consideration. Start by selecting a DJ who understands your musical preferences and can read the room, tailoring the playlist to the energy of the crowd. You can only do this by talking about what's important to you, what your family and friends love to dance to.

2. Venue – The venue plays a critical role. If you have a dance floor that holds 200 people but only have 50 wedding guests, it's going to be hard to make it feel "full". Think about the number of guests and venue capacity before booking. If you've already booked a large venue, position the dance floor to one end or corner, don't remove all of the chairs and tables, and set the room so the dance floor is the focal point so it's accessible and inviting, drawing your guests in.

3. Music – Your DJ has got to play the right tunes. Help them as much as you can by having your guests write a song request or two on their RSVP and passing this along (after you've vetoed all the "dodgy songs!"). This helps your guests instantly feel excited to see if their song will be picked. Then, once it is, they'll be so excited they'll run to the dance floor! Everyone has that one song they can't help but dance – find those songs.





4. First Dance – Ask the DJ to invite all of your guests onto the dance floor to join you once the Photographer has got their “money shot” of the two of you. Prime the bridal party and family members to step forward to join you both and most of your guests will follow. Make sure to ask the DJ to switch to some up-tempo, floor-filling classics so the photographer can get some great shots of everyone having fun before they go.

5. Keep Dancing – Make sure you and your spouse keep dancing! If you lead by example, people will follow. Everyone has come to your wedding to celebrate with YOU, wherever YOU are is where the party will be – If you want your guests to fill the dance floor, that’s where you need to be.

6. The Anniversary Dance – a fun way to incorporate couples of all ages to join in the fun! The DJ starts by encouraging all married couples on the dance floor to join the newlyweds. Then they make a series of announcements “All couples who have been married for more than one day stay on the floor” a round of applause for the newlyweds as they leave as the newest married couple, then more than a year, more than two years stay, then five, then ten, and so on until you have older couples who have been together fifty years! It’s a fun, interactive way to get your parents, grandparents, and older married couples to have a good time. A nice touch is to have a small gift be presented by the Bride and Bridegroom, the newest, to the oldest married couple, something like a small posy and some beers.

7. Flow – Be confident that the DJ you’ve booked knows what they’re doing. Let them use their years of experience to “read the room” and “feel the energy”. They know when and how to build the atmosphere to the point the room is almost sparking. Avoid too many slow songs that bring the tempo and the energy down. More than 3 is probably too many. Trust the DJ!





8. Dance Off's – Talk to your DJ about this one. You know what your family and friends are like... are they competitive? If they are, this is a great way to supercharge the party! Has to be planned in advance and you need to know who the parties will be. It could be Bridesmaids vs Groomsmen, Brides friends vs Grooms friends, or just Boys vs Girls... you have 2x "sides" and some absolute banger tracks to either dance or sing to and the "competition" begins...

9. Soft Ending / After Party – Sometimes, you know that your family don't really "get" the music you're into and so it's difficult to play much of the type of music that you (and probably your friends) really love... So, the afterparty was born! The DJ brings the evening to a close a little earlier than the venue will allow you to go on to, with your final dances. Your family all feel that they have been a part of everything on your special day and the DJ announces the afterparty will begin in 20 minutes (enough time for you to say your goodbyes to older family members who feel happy now leaving).

20 minutes later the floor erupts as the DJ cranks the volume and plays back-to-back music you and your friends absolutely love. The dance floor is rammed and you have a great time until the venue close time.

10. Group Shot – The final suggestion and a guaranteed dance floor filler is to ask all of your guests to join you on the dance floor for one last group photo. This is great as you often have evening-only guests and they rarely make it into your wedding day photos, so this means you get to capture everyone that helped make your fabulous day!

Just one last thing though... not everyone wants to or likes to dance and just because they don't dance doesn't mean they aren't having a great time. Everyone's different.

These tips are sure to get your wedding guests out on the dance floor and keep them there all night long! So why not give them a try? Who knows, you might even find yourself at the centre of the action.

Good luck!

