

Wedding Music Services FAQ

Booking & Availability

How do we find out if Elaine is available and get a quote?

Simple! Contact me at 773-296-0831 or dame.elaine@gmail.com. I offer a complimentary consultation, either over the phone or virtually, to discuss your needs. I will then provide a detailed Pricing Packet for your review.

Do you travel for weddings outside of your local area?

Yes, I am available for destination weddings! Additional travel fees may apply depending on the location.

Does the quote include mileage and travel time?

Yes. Quotes include mileage, travel time, parking, setup, performance, and breakdown. No hidden fees.

What are the steps involved for hiring Elaine Dame?

You will review and sign a contract (via email or in person). I require a signed contract and a 50% deposit to secure your date.

What happens after the contract is signed?

I will provide an "Event Organizer Document" and work with you throughout the process to ensure all details are covered. Generally, about 30 days before your event, we will finalize the details, but I am available anytime for any questions or adjustments.

What is your refund and cancellation policy?

A 50% retainer fee is required to secure your date. While this fee is generally non-refundable, I will consider exceptions based on the amount of advance notice. Cancellation without proper written notice at least three months prior means the remaining balance is non-refundable. If the wedding is moved to a different date, I will make every effort to reschedule, subject to my availability.

Where can I see or hear samples of your performances?

Visit www.elainedame.com for videos, audio recordings, and upcoming performance schedules, or watch the five-minute demo reel featured on my website.

Pricing & Payment

What is your pricing structure?

Pricing varies depending on the ensemble size, performance duration, and venue location. A detailed quote is provided upon inquiry.

Can you perform in different areas of our venue?

Of course. There is a small room charge fee for multiple locations within a venue to allow for the extra labor.

Can you provide special pricing packages for just the cocktail and dinner hours, or do we have to book the whole package?

Yes! I can provide entertainment for any part of your wedding—whether just the

cocktail and dinner hours or the entire event. Custom packages are available to suit your needs.

Performance & Musical Offerings

What is the typical format for an evening of live jazz music?

I tailor performances for each segment of your wedding day to create a seamless musical flow. Typically, there is a duo, trio, or quartet during cocktail and dinner hours, followed by a full band (up to 10-piece with horns) playing after dinner for about three hours, including two 15-minute breaks. For daytime or off-day weddings, the minimum performance time may be flexible.

What do you play during the ceremony?

I perform on the flute—delivering a beautiful, layered sound, like getting two musicians for the price of one! I can play a selection of your choice, solo or with guitar, violin, piano, or cello. If you prefer, I can also sing folk, pop, and jazz standards during the ceremony, personalized with your selected songs. Or you can simply choose to feature an instrumental ensemble, or a combination of the above.

Do you offer Gatsby-style music with costumes?

Absolutely!

Can the setlist be customized?

Yes! You can highlight songs you'd like to include or exclude certain tunes. I am happy to accommodate special requests.

Can I use recorded songs for the first dance or other special moments?

Absolutely! Recorded music can be played at any time and for any reason.

Logistics & Technical

How is volume controlled?

Volume is carefully managed—softer for conversation during social hours and louder for dancing—by a professional sound engineer.

Do you provide your own sound system?

Yes, I bring all necessary sound equipment along with a professional sound technician. If your venue provides a sound system and a qualified engineer, I am happy to utilize that, which may reduce the overall fee.

Does the setup interfere with the event?

Setup typically occurs about ninety minutes before the event with minimal disruption. Additional fees may apply for early setup or specific locations. Elaine's contracted policy is to be completely set-up and on deck at least thirty minutes prior to our contracted start time. If your guests start to trickle in early, the band will start playing at no extra cost to you.

What about liability insurance?

Yes, I am fully insured and can provide proof of insurance. Additional coverage can be arranged if needed.

Can the music be played during a presentation or AV segment?

Yes! I can coordinate with your AV team to ensure seamless integration with presentations, slideshows, or videos.

Yes, weather permitting. I reserve the right to relocate indoors in case of rain, and I include a "rain or shine" clause in my contract. It's advisable to have a backup plan.

What happens when the band takes a break?

During breaks, Elaine will play prerecorded music that complements the ambiance and style of your wedding.

Performance & Flexibility

Can Elaine emcee or announce important moments?

Yes, this is included in your package at no extra charge during contracted hours.

Can the band take a break when we have toasts or announcements?

Yes, I will work with you to coordinate break times that fit your schedule. I always remain flexible and adaptable.

Can the band play late if the event runs overtime?

Yes, overtime is available via a contract signed on site and is prorated at \$100/hour per musician.

Other

Will your recordings and videos reflect the actual band for our event?

My media features highly sought-after Chicago jazz musicians. However, personnel may vary due to prior commitments.

Can I add songs not on your list?

Yes! One song is included; additional songs that are not on my song list are \$30 each.

Will our songs sound like the original recordings?

No, many original songs feature full arrangements with string sections, orchestras, and other instrumentation that we may not replicate exactly. However, Elaine creates unique, special arrangements tailored to your event, adding her own special flair to make the performance even more memorable and personalized than the original version.

Does the band require a meal?

For weddings that occur during the lunch or dinner hour, a vendor meal is requested. Your caterer should be able to provide this.