

## Useful Information

The following information is designed to give you some unbiased insight into booking a band for your special event irrespective of whether you decide to book The Mofos! Quite often so much about planning an event is a step into the unknown...if you've never dealt with bands before, how on earth are you going to know what constitutes a fair price? Or value for money? And what do you even get for that financial outlay? There are many websites that offer insider knowledge to give you a few pointers and its advisable to do your research before booking a band. Here are a few pointers of our own that we think may help you in your search for the right band. Let's start with that all-consuming question...

### How much should I be paying?

Although it's true that a higher price doesn't always equal a better band, there is definitely a base rate that you need to be starting from. As an example, take your average covers band found playing Rock & Pop tunes down the local on a Friday or Saturday night. They're probably walking away with about £500. But there's a couple of reasons why they're presumably so cheap. They often tend to be amateur players. Their gear tends to be older, poorer in quality and a bit battered and they're used to fighting with the noise level of a pub, so everything sometimes just ends up being very, very, very loud and a poor quality!

Bear in mind however that many semi-pro and professional bands are also on the pub circuit, but essentially they do these events in order to secure private functions which is what they depend on for a living. These bands generally invest in better equipment, a lighting rig, a better PA and are capable of delivering a much more professional and scalable sound without the need to burst everyone's eardrums unnecessarily.

A professional function band can start from around £750-£1000 and is assembled from top quality, professional musicians. You know they're going to offer a concert-level stage production, with pro audio and lighting output scalable to your chosen venue. A quality band will crucially deliver peace of mind, knowing the act you have booked are incredibly well versed in providing the highest level of entertainment for your evening. Why would you settle for any less?....that is of course subject to your budget and importance of the event you are booking the band for.

Now, if that seems like just too much but you're still desperate for some live music, you could think about a solo act, duo or even trio to perform at your event. This can be a sophisticated way to bring a little energy to your afternoon/evening with the added benefit of not breaking the bank.

### So what am I getting for my money?

Don't be fooled into thinking more money necessarily equals better. An increase in the price of an act tends to be for one of three reasons:

- a) They're a bigger, more complex ensemble involving more musicians. Maybe horns, strings or multiple vocalists.
- b) They're a more specialist act – E.G, a jazz, vintage or festival band. These carry a higher price point as they're a bit more unique.
- c) The band in question is in incredibly high demand. This typically drives the price of an act up.

### Why is a private event band fee higher than a pub fee?

Remember, a band doesn't just 'turn up and play'. They have practice, rehearsals, studio rental fees, instruments and PA to maintain, insurance costs, transportation costs, upkeep of a van, promotion and marketing costs etc. Good bands have to do cheaper pub gigs often in order to get private gigs and events in order to make it worth their while and earn a wage or supplementary living. Successful bands don't just do it for the love of it! They have families to support and a mortgage to pay!

### A few useful tips....

- 1) If you have seen the band before, you will have a good idea of what they are capable of and what their sound is like. Its always advisable to go and see the band if you can before booking.
- 2) How many gigs a year do they do? Generally, if they are doing more than 30 gigs a year they are in reasonable demand. Remember good bands get gigs and book early for the following year. Check their website or Facebook page and see what gigs they have and how many. A band that is gigging more often is not only in demand but they are probably accomplished musicians. Do they actually have a website and/or Facebook presence?
- 3) Has the band done any recent festivals or large events? Remember decent bands get asked to do big events! Ask them!
- 4) A long established band doesn't necessarily mean a good band. Equally, newly formed bands can often consist of long-serving and accomplished musicians.
- 5) What sort of band do you want for your event? It might be *your* event, but you should consider your guests' tastes in music....how flexible and diverse is the band's sets? Do they publish a list of songs on their website and can you influence the genre of music you want for your event? A decent band will take into account your requirements, build the song lists accordingly and will be flexible to change with the mood of the event on the day.
- 6) Does the band belong to a musicians union? If so, they are serious about their work. Its not just a hobby!
- 7) Does the band have a lighting rig and/or lighting effects such as a haze machine? Remember venues can be dark and what use is a band that you can't see? Are your guests going to get up and dance? If so, lighting is key and all successful bands are properly equipped.
- 8) How many members are there in the band? The smaller the band, the cheaper they will be....all band members need to be paid afterall!
- 9) Do your research and get some quotes. Shop around once you've identified what you need. Local bands have less distance to travel and this should be reflected clearly in the pricing. Ask for a price breakdown. A professional band will be open with their pricing and its important you know what you are paying for.
- 10) Remember a decent band will require a non-refundable deposit. They will likely turn down other gigs once they've taken a deposit. If you have a band and date in mind, but the band is already booked out, speak to them. If they have a pub gig on your chosen day, they may be able to move it. Bands that play specific pubs regularly normally pull a good crowd and may have a large following which subsequently means that they will have a good relationship with the pub management who are often willing to move dates and compromise.