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# WEDDING *Itinerary*

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## Condensed Itinerary:

- |                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Detail Shots                | 8. Grand Entrance               |
| 2. Getting Ready               | 9. Cake Cutting                 |
| 3. Pre-Ceremony Portraits      | 10. Welcome Toast/Blessing      |
| 4. Ceremony                    | 11. Dinner                      |
| 5. Family Photos/Cocktail Hour | 12. First Dances/Special Dances |
| 6. Bridal Party Portraits      | 13. Rockin' Good Time!          |
| 7. Couple Portraits            | 14. Night Shots (optional)      |

## Detailed Itinerary:

For more information and wedding resources, check out our blog:

[felixandfingers.com/wedding-resource-guide](http://felixandfingers.com/wedding-resource-guide)

Please keep in mind this is a mock, but typical and very successful timeline. This timeline is, however, based upon everything being in one location. If you have multiple locations (hotel, church, park, bar, reception) please budget time for travel and shuffling around people along with necessary belongings! Additionally, this timeline is based on the married couple NOT doing a first look, and taking the majority of formal portraits after the ceremony. **Every item listed can be as changed as needed to fit your wedding vision!**





## 1:00pm Detail Shots



As soon as your photography team arrives, start with detail shots. This typically includes your rings, dress, bouquet, jewelry, invitations, perfume, something borrowed/blue etc. You may include as many or little items as you'd like. Please ensure whichever partner has all the main details also has all the rings with them! Your photographers can disseminate the rings accordingly afterwards.

This is a great time to wrap up hair and makeup and for your bridal party to eat lunch!

## 1:30pm Getting Ready



Hair and makeup should be completely done by this point. Your photography team will split up between the two halves of the bridal party to capture both sides getting ready. This is a great time to take robe or pajama shots, as well as a group cheers if you're having drinks! Afterwards, photographers capture the tail end of getting dressed.



Standard Shots: dress zip up/buttons, veil, jewelry, lipstick, shoes, suit coat, tie, cufflinks, pocket square, boutonniere, watch, etc.

## 2:30pm First Look / Wedding Party Photos



"First Look" shots aren't mandatory, but highly recommended. This is a great time to get individual shots of the couple while they are super fresh from getting ready. Also allow time for the photographers to take the bridesmaids and/or groomsmen out for some formal portraits. Taking these photos now will mean that nothing feels rushed during cocktail hour (the couple might even have time to mingle!)

## 3:30pm Seating



Ceremony prelude music to begin. Consider using a playlist such as this one:

[Playlist link goes here...](#)



## 4:00pm Ceremony



Ceremony music services should include live or DJed music, a sound system, wireless mic (handheld) for the officiant and readers, and customized song choices for the pre-ceremony seating music through the ceremony itself.



**Pro Tip:** Handheld mics tend to work better than lapel mics when it comes to feedback and sound isolation (as in, reducing wind noise).

**Pro Tip:** If the ceremony venue provides sound, proceed with caution. It's generally much safer to have your entertainment provide a sound system they know and trust (and can actively monitor!).

## 4:30pm Family Photos & Cocktail Hour



Family photos occur after the ceremony concludes. Your photographers should have a list on hand; one photographer will take the photos while the other will call out names and assist with posing.



**Pro Tip:** have your officiant ask immediate family members to stay near the ceremony site. This announcement can happen right before the recessional.



**Pro Tip:** Build your family shot list in advance! This is not the time to figure out if cousin Joe's girlfriend gets to be in the pictures.



For entertainment, DJed music works great while your guests are mingling. Consider extending your cocktail "hour" to an hour and a half so that:

1. There is ample time for pictures and formal portraits (especially for large families!)
2. Entertainment has time to relocate and set up gear as needed (especially if ceremony is in a different location)
3. And if everything is ahead of schedule, this allows for some time to mingle with guests (or, take a moment to catch your breath!)



**5:00pm**

## Bridal Party Photos



This includes photos of your entire bridal party together, bridesmaids and groomsmen separately, as well as individuals of the newly-wed couple separately with each of their respective attendants (ex. bride with each bridesmaid, groom with each groomsman). If you opted to do bridesmaids and groomsmen photos pre-ceremony, we will only take 10-15 minutes for the full group shots.

**5:15pm**

## Couple Photos



This is your time to shine! Photographers will focus on just the married couple during this time. If you opted in to do bridesmaids and groomsmen photos pre-ceremony, couple photos should only take 15 minutes.

**5:30pm**

## Guests Seated For Dinner & Wedding Party Gather to Lines Up



Entertainment will then ask everyone to please be seated. Entertainment will then alert the couple to have the Persons of Honor gather the members of the wedding party together. Once gathered, everyone will be lined up by name and instructed where to walk and what to do.



Are the parents being introduced? Ring Bearer/Flower Girl? Many couples forget to ask until the wedding day!

**5:45pm**

## Wedding Party Introductions



Announcements of the wedding party commence to the soundtrack of their choice.



Check out our blog series for song suggestions:

<http://www.felixandfingers.com/wedding-music-recommendations-blog-series>

### Traditional Order of Instructions (all optional except wedding couple)

1. Grandparents (they can also be introduced from their seats.)
2. Parents of the couple (also can be done from seats)
3. Flower Girl with Ring Bearer
4. Jr. wedding party
5. Wedding party and Ushers (If there is an extra person of honor or usher, three people could be announced together).
6. Persons of Honor (ex. Maid/Matron of Honor, Best Man)
7. The Couple



## 5:50pm Cake Cutting



MC will announce that everyone please be seated. The Couple reaches the center of the floor to background piano music. It's best to place the cake where the photography team can get a good angle of the couple's face (not in the corner of the room!)

### ◆ Cake cutting before dinner? How come?:

1. The Couple looks most photogenic at the beginning of the reception.
2. The photographer does his/her best work at the beginning of the reception before he/she tires.
3. The cake cutting is focused upon by guests rather than overlooked if done after dinner.
4. The couple has more time to relax and greet their guests because they won't be interrupted to cut it later.
5. The cake looks the best early in the evening before it starts to melt.
6. The staff can take the cake sooner to cut, meaning fewer delays

## 5:55pm Welcome / Speeches / Blessing



MC will welcome guests to the wedding along with introducing the welcome toast.

### ◆ It is recommended to seat elderly guests & children furthest from the bandstand for safety reasons.

Your MC will invite all of the designated speakers to the head table or bandstand. Guests will be instructed to speak directly into the microphone, as they are most likely not used to public speaking.

### ◆ Designate a small number of speakers, and advise them to keep their toasts short & sweet! 5 minutes or less is optimal. Don't make the mistake of assuming they know to keep it short.

### ◆ Confirm who will be giving toasts well in advance - you don't want anyone to be surprised! Impromptu toasts are highly discouraged.

### ◆ Have all speeches occur in a row before all guests have their meals:



- If people are still being served or in the buffet line, guests will be distracted from the speeches.
- It is most efficient for the photography team to have all toasts done in a row. This allows for set up of multiple camera angles, audio, and lights.

**Have your entertainment provide the sound system and Wireless Mic.**

◆ Some venues provide sound systems, but you're generally better off not using them. Unless the venue is also providing a dedicated audio engineer, plan to use the entertainment's microphone since they can adjust the volume easily in real-time.

Toasts are recommended in the following order (though couples can alter this order as they see fit):

1. Parents of the couple
2. Persons of Honor
3. Wedding couple
4. Blessing/Prayer

After which, MC will announce to "please enjoy your dinner" to let the guests know they can now relax and socialize while background music begins.

## 6:15pm Dinner



The couple gets a little down time to relax and enjoy dinner as a married couple! Please arrange a space for your vendor team to sit and eat dinner, whether it be a vendor table, seats amongst your guests, or just at the bar. **If you don't do speeches immediately, please make sure your photography team is not getting served last- they won't have time to eat before speeches start!**

## 7:00pm Meet & Greet All Tables



It is recommended that the couple do a "meet and greet" to thank their guests for attending, table by table. This is often your best opportunity to say hello to all your guests.

◆ Do the math: If you have 100 guests and you give each guest 1 minute, that is 100 minutes of meet and greet. Try to keep conversations short!



## 7:30pm Transition to Dancing



After dessert is served, MC will approach the couple to confirm the timing of the first dances. If not ready, MC will check in again every 10 minutes.



Make sure parents are present for the 1st dance so the transition into parent dances will be seamless.

## 7:40pm First Dance



As soon as the couple is ready, featured dances can begin. Entertainment will perform the first dance live or DJed, depending on the couple's preference. A typical first dance should be 2-3 minutes long. Please try to start your dance in the center of the dancefloor, and don't forget to throw in some smiles!



For song recommendations, check out our blog series:  
[felixandfingers.com/wedding-music-recommendations-blog-series](http://felixandfingers.com/wedding-music-recommendations-blog-series)

## 7:44pm Parent Dances



Special dances will be announced next.

The parent/child (ex. father/daughter) dances are traditionally separate, but can be combined into one dance if desired. Dance(s) are performed live or DJed based upon the couple's preference. Limit the length of each dance to 2-3 minutes (unless you're into choreography!)

## 7:50pm General Dancing



Entertainment will invite everyone onto the dance floor and introduce the show. Music will begin with high energy dance tunes to get everyone engaged immediately.

Felix and Fingers recommends a Dueling Pianos show to last between 120-150 minutes. This time frame is performed without breaks (so no one has an excuse to leave early!)



**8:30pm**

**Bouquet and Garter Toss**



The Bouquet and Garter Toss can be emceed from the dance floor. A tune of your choice can be Djed.

**\*\* Around 50% of couples opt for the bouquet & garter toss. This is totally up to you!**

**8:45pm**

**Night Shots**



The photographers will ask the couple if they'd like to go outside for some dramatic night shots. This is totally up to you, and most couples decide if they'd like to do this day-of. This is also a good time to play with sparklers and do a mock-exit with your bridal party if you have them!

**Pro Tip:** Mock exits make for great pictures. It might feel strange to do a mock exit, but you'll have more guests present, guests will be less tired (and less intoxicated), and then you don't have to pay your photographers for extra time just to capture your exit.

**9:00pm**

**Photo Team Departs**



The photography team will find the couple to say goodbye and ask for any last requests!

**10:00pm**

**DJ Music**



DJed music allows performers the option to play requested music not covered in the show. This final hour of DJed music is designed to keep the energy up and guests on the dance floor.

**11:00pm**

**End of Evening**



The MC will announce the end of the evening, thank your guests for a great time, and make any pertinent announcements about travel arrangements. If a send off is planned, the MC will help to facilitate via announcements.

**◆ End the evening with a bang! Consider sparkler send-offs, shuttle arrangements, and after party plans.**



## Some More Tips:

### Sunset

Check out what time sunset is– if you aren't already planning on taking any photos around this time, photographers may want to sneak out for 10 minutes to capture the couple with the sunset!

### Events

Be aware of all sporting, political, or any major events in the area, as they can affect traffic.

### Filmstrips

If you are planning on having a filmstrip/slideshow/montage, please let your entertainment know beforehand. Once equipment is set in place, moving is extremely difficult. If music is needed to accompany the filmstrip, please mix the songs and email an mp3.

### Guests Performing With Us

Other performers are always welcome! F&F allows other musicians to perform if the couple and F&F performers jointly agree/plan beforehand.

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## Thank you very much!

Thank you, and I hope this has given you quality insight for your wedding planning!

Please feel free to call or email with any questions you may have. We look forward to working with you!



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