

The Itchy & Scratchy Show

FAQ Frequently Asked Questions

Live Wedding Band

Selecting and Auditioning the Band

- How much do you charge?
- How can I check to see if you're available for my function?
- Is it safe to book a band from a videotape?
- Where can I come hear The Itchy & Scratchy Show Band play?
- How do you get such a big sound from only a three piece group?
- I really want a live band, but my parents are concerned that it will be too loud.
- I want a DJ, but my parents want a live band. Can you really be both?
- I really like a certain song that's not on your song list. Would you be willing to learn this song for us?
- How do you dress for a performance?
- Can you hold a date open for me?

Booking The Band

- Does the The Itchy & Scratchy Show Band use a contract?
- What is the process for booking the band?
- Do we have to make arrangements to feed the band?
- Do you require Payment in Full prior to the day of my event?
- How do you handle Overtime requests?
- Do you accept credit cards?
- Do you require a stage?
- If we have a stage, what are your staging size requirements?

Preparing for the Reception / Party

- Do we select the songs we want from the song list? Do we put the songs in order?
- What information do you need from me in advance of the reception?
- How long does it take you to set up?

ANSWERS:

Selecting and Auditioning a band

Q - How much do you charge?

A - Yup...this is almost always the first question people ask. Surprisingly enough, you won't find the answer to this question on most bands' websites. Why? Because there are many factors to take into consideration regarding costs: i.e. Time of reception, length of reception, geographical area, room requirements, Show Options (lights, hazer-fog machine, disco light). We do customized prices to both meet your budget and for the options you wish. We are proud of the value we offer at a rate that is considerably lower than that charged by most other bands (and some DJs). For more details on our rates, such as travel fees and overtime rates, email us at booking@itchyscratchyshow.ca or itchyscratchyband@gmail.com.

Q - How can I check to see if you're available for my function?

A - Simply go to the The Itchy & Scratchy Show Band Gig Page and check to see if your date has been taken. Click on month and scroll with the arrow button at the top to go from month to month. This list is updated as soon as new bookings are confirmed, or as soon as we know of a date where the band is unavailable.

On rare occasions we can manage to squeeze in two performances in a single day, so if your date is marked but the times are sufficiently far apart, give us a call and we can see if we can work something out.

If your date is more than 5 months away and we have a club or restaurant performance booked for your date, it's possible we can change the date of that performance. Please email and inquire.

Q - Is it safe to book a band from a videotape?

A - Whenever possible, you should try and hear a band perform live at some point BEFORE signing a contract. This holds true for ANY band you audition.

Videotapes are all well and good for narrowing down your selections, but you still need to check out your band live or disastrous things might occur at your reception. Some bands use pre-recorded audio on their videotapes that they could never hope to replicate live, and others actually go so far as to use studio musicians that aren't part of the

band!!!

Through the miracle of technology, just about any band can sound good in a professional recording studio. If you must book a band from a tape or CD, try to insist on a tape or audio CD that uses live footage of the band in performance in front of an audience. The audio quality might not be as good as those other studio tapes you've heard, but the performance will be much closer to what you will actually hear at YOUR function. We have live DVDs available to view right on our website for your convenience. BUT we would REALLY love to meet you and see you come out.

Q - Where can I come hear you play?

A - The Itchy & Scratchy Show makes regular public appearances, nearly every weekend. We perform at nightclubs, parks concerts, service clubs, and at bridal shows. A list of our upcoming performances can be found by going to our Gig page. Only gigs that state private are not available for showing.

Q - How do you get such a big sound from only a three piece group without multiple other instruments or band members?

A - The Itchy & Scratchy Show takes full advantage of all the technology that is available to us today. We make use of MIDI sequencing technology that synthesizes our drums and some other instruments to make our sound fuller.

While some people characterize this as a "Karaoke Band", this is the exact same technology that drives performances by Madonna, Michael Jackson, Britney Spears, and most of the other pop stars on tour today.

This is also the reason why you can have a live band sound as full and as close to the original as we do, yet at over half the cost of the 10 and 12 piece bands out there.

The use this technology also allows us to perform at much quieter volumes than most other bands in smaller rooms, and yet with far more energy than would be possible.

We have infinite control over volume, and we maintain a consistent tone

quality that gives the song the drive and excitement needed.

The itchy & Scratchy Show does have a 4 and 5 piece band member option available if requested.

Q - I really want a live band, but my parents are concerned that it will be too loud. Can you play quietly enough so that folks can still hear to talk without having to shout?

A - Absolutely. One of the strong points of **The Itchy & Scratchy Band** is our ability to play quietly, particularly in the early stages of the reception, or in smaller rooms where people also want to be able to talk.

We have had receiving lines set up directly in front of the band and the family was still able to greet their guests effortlessly.

We make it a point to start the reception at an extremely low volume. This way, you can always request that the volume be turned up if you'd like.

We'd much prefer that you ask to have things turned UP rather than DOWN. This is another reason why it is so important to hear a band perform live before signing a contract.

Q - I want a DJ, but my parents want a live band. Can you really be both?

A - Absolutely. Our musicians have over 25 years of experience as a Live DJ in both clubs and at weddings. Our philosophy is one geared towards less chatter and more music, as we feel the music should be able to entice people to the dance floor without having the DJ rattle on at the mouth.

By having a live DJ take over between sets we are able to play songs that the band doesn't otherwise perform. It also allows us to bring in elements of other ethnicities and cultures, by spinning recordings of traditional material, such as Greek, Italian, Scottish, Jewish, Polish, Latin, Oriental, or just about any other cultural heritage.

Q - I really like a certain song that's not on your song list. Would you be willing to learn this song for us or play it on DJ for us?

A - Absolutely! We would be more than happy to learn a special song for you if time permits. It can be for your first dance, father/daughter

dance, or just a special song that you want included during the course of the reception. If we can't play it live, we guarantee we will have it pre-downloaded on our computer digital DJ selector.

Finally, we will be more than happy to have the band's DJ Greg, spin any additional songs for you in between sets.

Q - How do you dress for a performance?

A - Typically, for a formal event such as wedding or corporate party the band will wear black dress shirts with white ties. If requested we can also wear a suit and tie. If you are hosting a theme party, the band is more than willing to accommodate the theme by dressing appropriately.

Q - Can you hold a date open for me?

A - The band's policy for bookings is that the first person to verbally confirm/sign and contract and send a deposit gets the date. While we do not put a "hold" on specific dates without a contract and retainer, we will be more than happy to call you and advise you if there are any serious inquiries for your date.

Booking The Band

Q - Does The Itchy & Scratchy Show Band use a contract?

A - Yes, we use a contract for all performances. This ensures that there are no miscommunications between the band and our clients. It is for the protection of all parties concerned.

Q - What is the process for booking the band?

A - The process goes like this:

1. A written email to us through our website is mandatory. Follow-up via phone calls also.
2. The client will be emailed a contract & signs and returns them via email or efax #416-628-2322. A retainer is encouraged. A receipt will be provided with the balance due amount. (typically \$500 deposit)
3. Upon receipt of the contract and retainer, the date is officially

confirmed

Cancellation Policy:

A THREE MONTH CANCELLATION NOTICE IS REQUIRED FOR REFUND OF DEPOSIT, OTHERWISE IT IS NON-REFUNDABLE FOR CANCELLATION

Q - Do we have to make arrangements to feed the band?

A - We do request that arrangements be made for a light meal for the band. However, we do not want our clients to have to pay the same rate as their guests to feed the group. Most caterers in the area will allow the band to go through the buffet line after the guests have finished, or they may provide a vendor sandwich or other light fare. If a caterer is insistent on charging full fare for the band to eat, other arrangements can be made. This is not a major issue for the band!

Q - Do you require Payment in Full prior to the day of my event?

A - No. Once we receive your retainer, no further monies are due until the day of the function. Whether we are paid before the beginning of the event, during, or while we're breaking down, that's entirely up to you. If you PREFER to pay in advance so you have one less thing to worry about, that's fine, of course!

Q - How do you handle Overtime requests?

A - The Itchy & Scratchy Show charges a fee for each additional 60 minute set of music beyond the contracted hours. The decision to extend the performance does not have to be made until the very end of the contracted period, at which point you simply ask the band to stay and play some more.

We book overtime in 1/2 hour increments. The band typically only books one performance a day, so overtime is never a problem. We'll play for as long as the guests are still partying! Speak to us for more details about this.

Q - Do you require a stage?

A - The simple answer for this question is no, we do not require a stage.

For corporate functions or other performances where the band is a significant focus of attention a stage does help direct that focus, particularly in larger rooms. However, for weddings and other private parties, it is the newlywed couple or guest of honour that is the real focus, so a stage is definitely not necessary

Q - If we have a stage, what are your staging size requirements?

A - The minimum size stage that the band can fit on is 12' x 12', which translates to four pieces of standard size roll around staging. For stages of this size the band's speakers will be located off the stage on either side of the band. Larger stages are helpful in that it provides us more room to move and interact, and permit us to locate speaker cabinets and light trees on stage rather than off to the side.

Preparing for your function

Q - Do we select the songs we want from the song list? Do we put the songs in order?

A - Here's what we do. About 8 weeks before your reception we request that you download the Wedding Function form from our website and complete it and email it back or fax it to us.

We will ask you to select 4-8 "must play" songs, that is, those songs that you really want to dance to or feel very strongly about. (This could be DJ or songs from our live song list) Please click on our song list which is in alphabetical order.

Finally, we will ask you to indicate any songs you don't want us to play which you will complete on The Wedding Function form.

When you return this list to us, we will put together a rough set list based on your selections. Based on the styles of music you have selected, we may also fill in some songs of a similar nature that are pretty much guaranteed crowd pleasers, (unless of course the selection is on the "don't play" list).

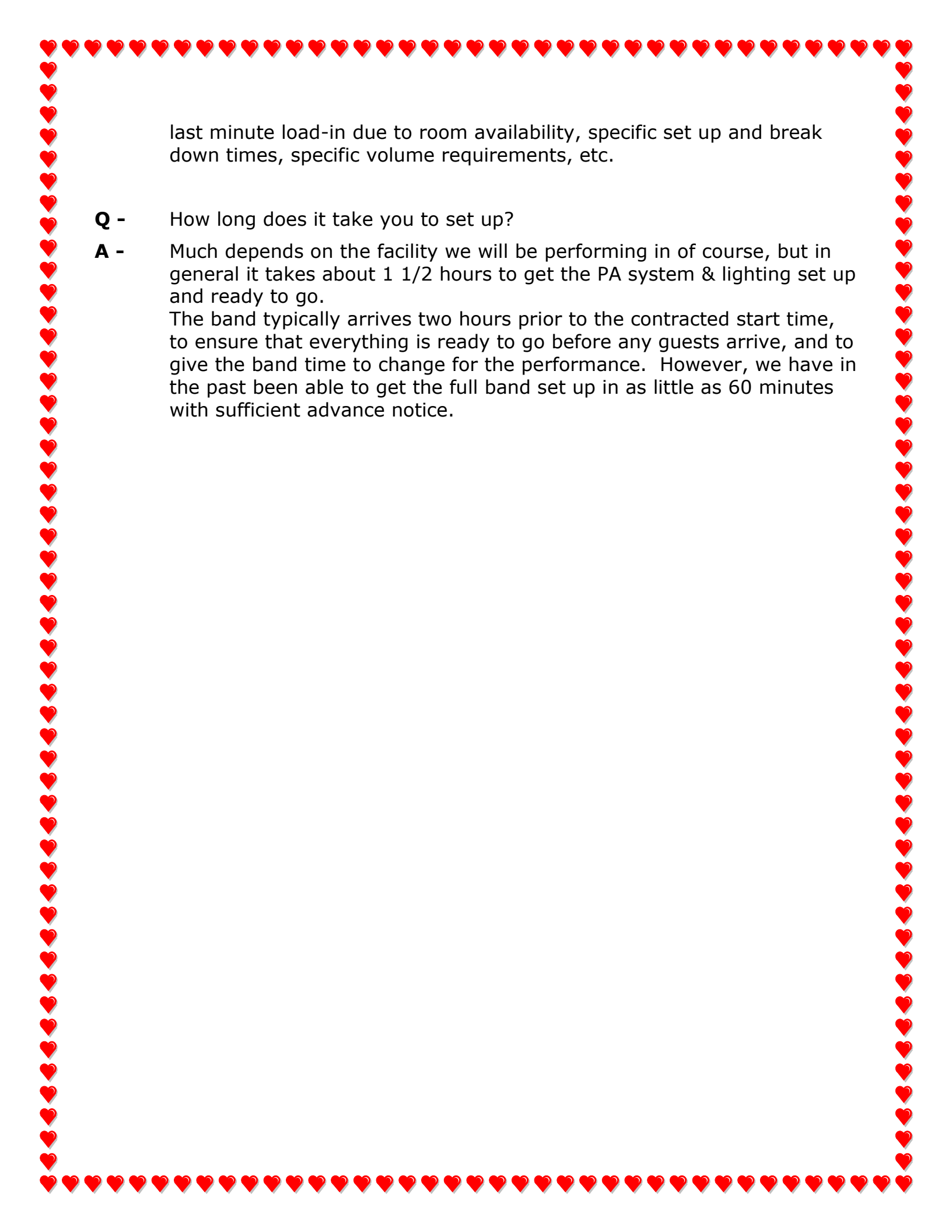
The band is quite flexible as far as what is played and when. As the reception progresses, we will be taking requests from your guests, and if we can honour those requests we will, (unless, once again, the request is on the "don't play" list).

We will also be "reading" the crowd, to see which songs are receiving the best response. It is this experience in reading a group that sets the band apart from a human jukebox playing the same songs in the same order all the time.

Q - What information do you need from me in advance of the reception?

A - Since every wedding is different, we don't need the same information from everybody. However, as a general rule, here are some of the pieces of information we look for:

1. Wedding Function Form: This will give us the following info: Itinerary for the reception. What time do guests arrive, what time is meal served, cake cut, etc.
2. Will the entire wedding party be introduced? If so, we need the list of names in advance. We're pretty good with this, but phonetic pronunciations for some of the more difficult names are appreciated. We'll go over this list with you before the event to ensure names are pronounced properly.
3. When is the first dance, right after introductions or after the meal? What song?
4. Will there be a Father/Daughter Dance? What song?
5. Is there a separate Mother / Son Dance, or is there just going to be one "Parent Dance" where we invite Mother / Son up halfway through the Father / Daughter song?
6. When will the Parent Dance occur...after the First Dance, after dinner, or at some other point?
7. Will there be a Bouquet Toss? Will there also be a Garter toss? When will this occur?
8. Is there a toast that will be offered? Who will be doing it?
9. Will there be a blessing / grace offered just before dinner?
10. Are there any special rules or requirements for the band imposed by the facility? Examples might be carpets for hardwood floors, early or



last minute load-in due to room availability, specific set up and break down times, specific volume requirements, etc.

Q - How long does it take you to set up?

A - Much depends on the facility we will be performing in of course, but in general it takes about 1 1/2 hours to get the PA system & lighting set up and ready to go.

The band typically arrives two hours prior to the contracted start time, to ensure that everything is ready to go before any guests arrive, and to give the band time to change for the performance. However, we have in the past been able to get the full band set up in as little as 60 minutes with sufficient advance notice.