

BARN DANCE & CEILIDH (KAYLEE) BANDS

Barn Dances for Weddings

More and more couples are choosing a barn dance and Caller as their ideal wedding evening entertainment! A wedding barn dance is enormous fun, absolutely informal, just right for every age from the youngest children to grandparents - and it gets both families mixing right from the start! Old or young, can join in! No experience is needed - just the desire to have a really great time. Our Callers start off with easy, simple dances because they're experienced in understanding a wedding's very special needs.

The bright cheerful sound of the music sets the happy scene straight away, so your guests can join in whenever they wish, without feeling embarrassed or left out. It's a great way to get everyone together, with an experienced MC (the 'Caller'), guiding the whole evening, they'll "read" the party's changing moods throughout the evening and sense when the atmosphere needs to be more placid or lively, when the pace should quicken, or slow down. The emphasis for the evening will be on enjoyment and because your Caller walks through each dance first and calls over the music, you don't have to learn or remember anything, it's all done for you, so you don't have a thing to worry about - you can just relax and enjoy your special day with your family and friends!

The lively atmosphere of a wedding barn dance is guaranteed to get your party going with a swing. Our experienced 'callers' will quickly get even the most shy guests joining in the fun in a way which will amaze everyone. Throw away your inhibitions and relax in a true country atmosphere that quickly makes you feel at home.

Barn Dance Callers

We can supply a Barn Dance Caller using tapes or CDs for the music rather than a full live band. This is an ideal alternative if space or budget is restricted.

BARN DANCE BANDS

A small selection from the many Wedding Barn Dance bands we represent:

Barn Dance Band One:

This band are based in Surrey and are an English Ceilidh / Barn Dance Band, founded in 2001 by three musicians with many years experience in a number of other bands. Their aim is to have dancers enjoy a variety of Ceilidh dances to bright, lively and rhythmic music.

The Bands music and the calling are played through a high quality PA system, chosen specifically for its reproduction of the characteristic sounds we are aiming for. And because it is a clean, clear sound it need only be as loud as everyone is comfortable with. They work as a three-piece band plus our own caller to explain the dances. They are also happy to work with other callers if desired, and for very small events we could potentially provide the calling from within ther three-piece.



Barn Dance Band Two:

This is a bunch of brilliant musicians, three of whom have been playing and calling for barn dances for over 15 years. The band are available as a 3-4 piece barn dance band + caller, and are based in the East Berkshire.

With three out of the five having been classically trained, there's nothing folksy about this band; nor are they staid and stuffy.

A good time for all, especially the dancers is the name of the game, all done to an irresistible foot-tapping beat. It's worth coming along to listen, just to hear Nick lead them off into their devilish American reels or their irrepressible Irish jigs.

If you've never been to a barn dance before, there's nothing to worry about; the caller walks you through the dance beforehand and then calls it with the music. They don't care if you get it wrong! After all that's half the fun.



Barn Dance Band Three :

Acoustic instrumental music is ideal for those situations where you want high quality, accessible music that doesn't take over. This band is made up of professional musicians with a folk and traditional music background who provide an ensemble to suit your requirements and your budget.

Instruments include violin, accordion, acoustic and semi acoustic guitar, cittern, whistles, bodhran, djembé and other ethnic percussion.

They can also supply a caller if you're wanting a barn dance or ceilidh.



CEILIDH BANDS

Ceilidh Band One :

This is a professional Scottish Ceilidh(keylee / keyly) and Country Dance Band with an established reputation for dynamic and Contemporary performances of Scottish traditional music.

Formed in 1990, the musical basis of the band consists of: Fiddle, Accordion and Drums supplemented, whenever necessary, by Electric Guitar and Bass Guitar.

The final, essential member of the ensemble is the Caller who's sole responsibilities are thorough pre-dance instruction and programme selection in accordance with the dancers' capabilities. Typical programmes comprise: The Dashing White Sergeant, Barlee Bree, Strip the Willow, Earl of Inverness, Eightsome Reel, The Dhoon, The Flying Scotsman and the customary Gay Gordon's.



Ceilidh Band Two :



This is a well established Ceilidh band featuring a dynamic front line of fiddle, guitar, sax/keys, one of the best rhythm sections in the business and a top caller. The band includes players from such groundbreaking groups as 'The Cluster of Nuts Band', Nightwatch and Jellied Reels and special guests. With this band you can be assured of the very best in danceable music.

The band is a long-standing stalwart of the burgeoning E Ceilidh movement, a mix of English & Celtic social dance where the 'dancing' is more important than getting it 'right' and the purpose is to party - truly harmony in motion.

The music for the dances range from modern arrangements of traditional tunes from the British Isles and Europe, with a smattering of eclectic contemporary material and 'fun' numbers. The band can also provide incidental music to provide a complete night's entertainment. The band works with some of the UK's finest dance callers and can thus ensure that the audience will be in the best possible hands, an essential element if everyone is going to have a good time. The caller is well versed in running an enjoyable evening and will select dances to suit the ability of the audience.

Ceilidh Band Three :

Providing Ceilidh dances for wedding receptions is a regular feature in this bands work programme. Typical dances at a Scottish Ceilidh are the Gay Gordons, Dashing White Sergeant, Strip The Willow, Canadian Barn Dance, Military Two Step, Virginia Reel, Cumberland Reel, St Bernard's Waltz, and many more. They are all fairly straightforward and good fun to do. Each dance is explained at the outset by the caller, who will judge the mix of skills on the night, and tailor the initial instructions, and guidance once started, to suit - so no previous experience necessary.

They are occasionally asked at Ceilidh's for more complicated Reeling dances, in particular the Eightsome Reel. They are more than happy to play the tune sets for these if there are enough people who already know the dance.



Ceilidh Band Four :

This band has many years' experience specialising in traditional music for Weddings. The musicians have been performing, touring and recording for many ears and two are award-winning performers. The Bands most common format for a Ceilidh consists of four musicians plus a caller who will teach the dances from scratch - no experience needed! A Ceilidh is something really

different and ideal for a successful party, as it is a fun way to get families and friends to mix and meet. The faster dances are an energetic work out, and we also play in a more relaxed romantic mood. This Band play traditional Irish, Scottish, English and American songs and tunes with innovation, flair and vitality. Musical influences include; The Chieftains; Planxty; The Bothy Band; Altan; Ally Bain; Boys of the Lough; Jimmy Shand; The Pogues; Van Morrison; The Dubliners and Christy Moore. They are both sensitive to the occasion and responsive to the mood of the audience. If you wish we can concentrate on one particular style e.g. Scottish or Irish throughout the performance.



